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Saudi Arabia gives \$28.5m to PLO

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has donated \$28.5 million to help the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Saudi Press Agency said Monday. The grant was made under a 1978 Arab summit resolution which asked oil producing Arab states to pay \$300 million annually to the PLO. A cheque for the amount was handed to Mr. Rafiq Natsha, representative of Fatah, the biggest PLO group, in Jeddah. The agency said Mr. Natsha praised the kingdom's continuing support to the Palestinian revolution and also urged other Arab countries to fulfil their financial obligations. Saudi Arabia made a similar donation to the PLO last March.

Protesters demand Begin's trial

TEL AVIV (R) — Several hundred leftists demonstrated in Tel Aviv Monday demanding that Prime Minister Menachem Begin and his government be put on trial. The protesters, members of the "Committee Opposed to the War in Lebanon," were heckled by government supporters but police said there were no disturbances. A small group of supporters of the moderate "Peace Now" movement held a silent demonstration on the spot outside the prime minister's office in occupied Jerusalem where one of their colleagues was killed and 10 were injured in a grenade attack on Thursday night. The movement is demanding that the government implement fully the recommendations of the inquiry commission which investigated the Beirut massacre of hundreds of Palestinians last September.

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W. German minister arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — West German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jürgen Moellmann arrives in Amman Tuesday from Beirut on a two-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Moellmann, who is also the president of the German-Arab Society, will have talks with senior Jordanian officials on Jordanian-German bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern, including the European Economic Community's (EEC) position on the Middle East, and current efforts for peace in the Middle East.

Bomb blast damages former Iraqi Airways office in Bangkok

BANGKOK (R) — A bomb blast ripped through a former office of Iraqi Airways Monday, police said. They said no one was hurt in the early morning blast which wrecked the front door, sales area and other parts of the office. The airline recently moved to a new building about two kilometres away. Police said it was not known who had planted the bomb. In December, a bomb destroyed the office of the former honorary Iraqi consul in Bangkok, killing a police bomb expert trying to defuse it.

Israelis arrest 5 in S. Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli forces surrounded a South Lebanese town Monday and paraded villagers in front of a masked man before making five arrests, residents said. The arrests followed an explosion Sunday near an Israeli troop base in the area, south of the Mediterranean port of Tyre, in which an Israeli soldier and a civilian were injured, a military spokesman in Tel Aviv said.

Curfew imposed on Kalandia camp

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A curfew was imposed on Kalandia refugee camp north of here after Palestinian youths stoned Israeli vehicles and slightly injured an army officer, a military spokesman said Monday. Youths also stoned Israeli vehicles in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah in an apparent display of support for the Palestinian National Council, which opens its meetings in Algiers, the spokesman said.

Japan urges Israel to withdraw from occupied territories

JEDDAH (R) — Japan has called on Israel to remove its forces from Lebanon immediately and return all occupied Arab land, Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe was quoted Monday as saying. The Saudi newspaper Arab World quoted him as saying in an interview in Tokyo that Japan had urged Israeli recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as sole representative of the Palestinian people. He said peace in the Middle East would be meaningless unless the PLO took part directly in establishing a sovereign state in the West Bank and Gaza. Japan stood by commitments to PLO leader Yasser Arafat made when he visited Tokyo two years ago, he added.

Palestinian parliament opens Algiers meeting

ALGIERS (R) — The Palestinian parliament-in-exile Monday started a 10-day session in Algiers that will decide how the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reacts to various Middle East peace proposals.

It is expected to endorse an Arab peace plan that would indirectly recognise Israel in exchange for the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. The parliament, or Palestine National Council (PNC), is the Palestinian movement's top decision-making body. Palestinian leaders were still working out a common position on key issues Monday. One PLO leader said Sunday night they would reject the peace proposal made by President Reagan last September. The American plan calls for a Palestinian homeland, in association with Jordan, in the West Bank and Gaza, which were occupied by Israel in 1967. Salah Khalaf, regarded as the PLO's number two leader after Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat, said Mr. Reagan's proposals were unacceptable because they ignored Palestinian aspirations to statehood. A PLO spokesman said the leaders would also make clear their position on a Soviet call for an international peace conference and a joint French-Egyptian initiative seeking mutual recognition of the Palestinians and Israelis. The PNC is generally expected to endorse the moderate diplomatic line followed by Mr. Arafat since the Palestinian fighters' withdrawal from Israeli-besieged Beirut last September. Palestinian sources said the PNC would encourage Mr. Arafat to continue talks with Jordan on possible links between the kingdom and a future Palestinian state. But leaders of various trends in the PLO said Sunday night that any confederation, should be established only if the PLO had already been able to set up its own independent state.

The PNC is also expected to give cautious approval to PLO contacts with Egypt and to Mr. Arafat's own dialogue with Israeli pacifists who recognise the Palestinian's right to statehood, the Palestinian sources said.

PFPL rejection

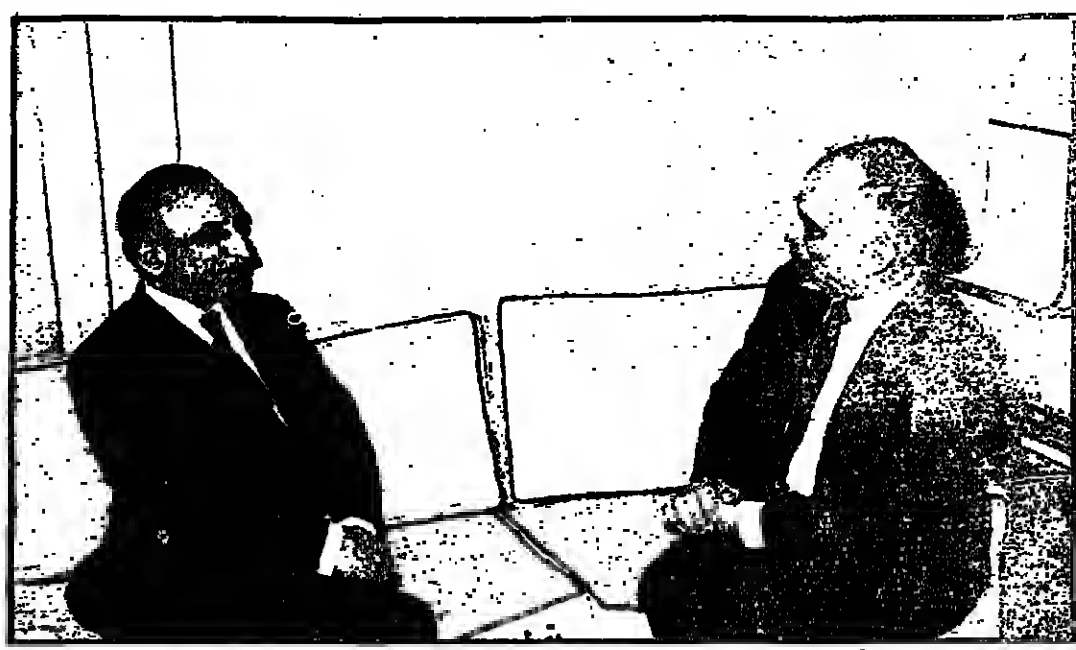
Meanwhile a leader of the hard-line Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) categorically rejected President Reagan's Middle East peace plan. "The Reagan proposals deny our people's right to self-determination and its own state," PFLP political bureau member Bassam Abu Sharif said. He told a press conference in Algiers that his movement rejected all plans that fall short of recommending the creation of a Palestinian state. Asked about the Arab League peace plan that indirectly recognises Israel in return for the establishment of such an independent state, he said the PFLP had reservations about it. However, Palestinian sources said hardline and moderate Palestinians had reached an agreement in Algiers under which next week's session of the PNC will endorse the Arab plan.

Freij urges PNC to take urgent action

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (R) — The mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij, said Monday he believed the Palestinians had only two months left to prevent the Israeli takeover of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip becoming an accomplished fact. Interviewed by Reuters on the eve of the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers, he appealed to PNC delegates for decisions paving the way for new Arab-Israeli negotiations on the future of the occupied territories. "Israeli bulldozers are roaming the width and length of the West Bank, levelling hills for Jewish settlements," he said. "More than half our land has already been expropriated and we are nearing an irreversible situation."

The mayor, a leading Palestinian moderate, was bitterly critical of the U.S. administration of President Reagan. "Reagan speaks and Israeli bulldozers speak. Which is the more effective?" he asked. "Politicians in Washington make clumsy speeches, but American money helps the Israelis to..."

(Continued on page 3)



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan, who is on an official four-day visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

King, Yaqub-Khan discuss Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and the visiting foreign minister of Pakistan, Sahabzadah Yaqub-Khan, Monday held discussions on the situation in the Middle East and the latest developments in the Palestinian issue on Arab and international levels, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. The King also reviewed with Mr. Yaqub-Khan, who arrived earlier in the day on an official four-day visit, the aftermath of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last June and the Gulf war, Petra said. Also discussed during the audience was bilateral relations between Jordan and Pakistan and ways to strengthen them, the news agency said.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and the Pakistani ambassador in Amman. In a statement to newsmen, Mr. Yaqub-Khan praised the strong relations between the two countries, and said Jordan, under the leadership of King Hussein, is always working for Arab causes. "My visit to Jordan comes at a time when the Middle East issue is becoming of increasing concern to the entire world, particularly in recent months following the events in Lebanon and international efforts being made to establish comprehensive and just peace in the region," he said. Mr. Yaqub-Khan added that "developments in the Middle East are important for Pakistan because it considers itself part of the Islamic World and is linked with historic and cultural ties with Islamic countries."

The Pakistani government is anxious to see a just peace in the Area ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, he said. The Arab peace plan adopted by last September's Arab summit can provide a basis for a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East issue, he added. Mr. Yaqub-Khan said he will discuss with Jordanian officials various issues of joint interest to be discussed in the forthcoming non-aligned summit in New Delhi. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was hosting a banquet Monday night in honour of the visiting minister.

Arens accepts to succeed Sharon

TEL AVIV (R) — Moshe Arens, Israel's ambassador to Washington, has agreed to succeed Ariel Sharon as defence minister, the prime minister's office announced Monday. The appointment must first be ratified by the cabinet and the Knesset (parliament). Mr. Arens, 57, an aeronautics expert, has expressed hardline views similar to those of Mr. Sharon on Israeli control of Arab territories and the war in Lebanon. Monday's announcement was made as Mr. Sharon prepared to leave the post of defence minister following a commission of inquiry's recommendation that he step down for his indirect role in the Beirut massacre of Palestinians in refugee camps. Mr. Sharon remains in the cabinet as minister without portfolio. The inquiry recommended that Mr. Sharon leave his post. After fighting to keep his job, he resigned last Friday. Mr. Sharon was defence minister for 18 months, during which he spearheaded Jewish settlement in occupied Arab land and launched the seven-month Lebanon war, aimed at destroying the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a fighting force.

Mr. Arens, a 57-year-old former aeronautics professor who was sent to Washington a year ago, shares Mr. Sharon's right-wing views and is expected to continue his uncompromising policies. Politicians speculated that after serving as Israel's ambassador to the U.S. during one of the stormiest periods in the two countries' relationship, Mr. Arens would be more sensitive to Washington's interests. Prime Minister Begin will hold the defence portfolio until Mr. Arens takes office.

(Continued on page 3)

Peres assails Begin

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres criticised Prime Minister Menachem Begin Monday during a parliamentary debate on the proposal to transfer the defence ministry portfolio from Ariel Sharon to Mr. Begin. A reluctant Mr. Sharon resigned his post Sunday after being blamed by a state inquiry for indirect responsibility for the massacre of Palestinians in Beirut last September.

(Continued on page 3)

UAE: Europe should take more active Mideast role

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) called on European countries Monday to adopt a more definitive and supportive role of Middle East peace initiatives. The call was made by UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah during talks in Abu Dhabi.

(Continued on page 3)

Progress hinted as Khalde talks resume

KHALDE, Lebanon (R) — Lebanese, Israeli and U.S. negotiators met near Beirut Monday amid hints that the slow-moving talks on an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon have started to make progress. Both Lebanese and Israeli sources said the teams had begun work on the tentative draft of an eventual agreement. Israeli sources said sub-committees on ending the state of war between Israel and Lebanon and on the withdrawal of forces were both drafting texts on points where the two sides were broadly in agreement. Lebanese sources would only say that the committee on ending the state of war had started drafting. There was no information that the negotiators had produced any breakthrough on the main disputes that have dogged the talks. These are chiefly Israel's demands — rejected by the Lebanese — that it maintain a limited military presence in South Lebanon and that there should be "normal" relations between the two countries. Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem said last week that the United States had brought new proposals which would result in real progress if they were accepted. He gave no details, adding only that Israel had backed down on certain legal points. He gave a generally optimistic picture of the progress in the talks, the first time a Lebanese official has done so in public since they began at the end of December.

Mr. Salem said progress was much greater than some people thought and an agreement could be reached in a month or two or even less. The hints of movement came after U.S. special envoy Philip Habib returned to the Middle East and held several days of talks in Israel and Lebanon. The special envoy, who successfully negotiated the withdrawal of Palestinian fighters from Beirut last summer, held separate meetings Monday morning with Mr. Salem and Pierre Gemayel, leader of the Falangist Party and father of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel. The Falangists are the dominant rightist political and military force in Lebanon and have been closely linked with Israel.

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Cheysson renews appeal for end to Iran-Iraq war

BAGHDAD (R) — French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson renewed an appeal for a negotiated end to the Iraq-Iran war here Monday, saying that the continued fighting carried the risk of much bloodshed and superpower intervention. Mr. Cheysson spoke at a news conference at the end of a visit to Baghdad where he met President Saddam Hussein. France is a major supplier of arms to Iraq and French firms are undertaking several key contracts. But Mr. Cheysson would not be drawn on details of a credit package that Iraq is seeking to enable it to continue obtaining French assistance. He clearly had been moved by seeing Baghdad Television newsreel film lingering over mounds of corpses on the Gulf war battlefield, following the start of a new Iranian offensive on Sunday. "You have seen the horrors. I appeal from this table for peace," he said.

He noted both superpowers had reserved their position on the 29-month-old war, saying "I thank God for that" and calling for it to be resolved without superpower arbitration. Arms sales to Iraq

Mr. Cheysson defended French arms sales to Iraq on the grounds

Tehran concedes difficulties in latest offensive

LONDON (R) — Iran Monday acknowledged that its forces were making only slow progress in their latest Gulf war offensive but warned of new large-scale military drives on a wide front against Iraq. Parliamentary Speaker Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani was quoted by Tehran Radio as saying the slow pace of the operation launched last week on the southern front reflected Iranian military "tactics" rather than fierce resistance by the Iraqis. "The (Iraqis) do not know what we are intending to do," he said. Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani, who represents Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the supreme defence council, reaffirmed Iran's determination to continue the latest offensive. "In this attack, we will not concentrate our forces on one point," he said. The Iranian army was ready to open up new fronts in the 29-month-old Gulf war, and the new phase of fighting would go on until the war was over, he added.

Cairo negotiates for latest F-16s

CAIRO (R) — The commander of the Egyptian air force said in a newspaper interview Monday that Egypt was negotiating with the United States to obtain an advanced version of the F-16 jet fighter bomber. Mohammed Abdul Hamid Helmi told the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper that the air force was thinking of selling its F-4 jet fleet to other countries to pay for the new planes. Reports from Ankara last month said Egypt was negotiating with Turkey for the sale of 35 F-4s. "Selling the planes to Turkey or any other country serves our plans to renovate the airforce. If the deal is concluded the funds will be used to purchase the advanced version of the F-16s," Mr. Helmi said.

Haddad militia moves into Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — The Israeli-backed militia of renegade Lebanese army Maj. Saad Haddad Monday moved into Sidon, southern Lebanon, with tanks and armoured personnel carriers, saying it was setting up a garrison. Maj. Haddad told a press conference he was establishing the garrison because he wanted to help the Lebanese government spread its authority over the whole of Lebanon and avoid the country's partition. The move into Sidon, the largest town in South Lebanon, came after hints that Israel is ready to make its own security arrangements in the south if it cannot reach a suitable agreement with the Lebanese government. Last week, the then Israeli defence minister, Ariel Sharon, told Lebanese Christian leaders that Israel might impose its own settlement on the south if there was no progress soon in the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations. Maj. Haddad's militia of a few hundred men is entirely dependent on Israel for weapons and supplies. After Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1978, Maj. Haddad's men controlled a strip of land along the Israeli border in which Israeli forces operated freely. Since Israel's bigger invasion last year, the Haddad militia has spread up to the Awali River, just north of Sidon.

Kyprianou-Communist alliance wins elections

NICOSIA (R) — President Spyros Kyprianou won re-election with decisive help from Communist votes Monday but he immediately pledged not to turn Cyprus into a Communist state. "I have no intention of bringing communism to Cyprus," the centre-right leader told Reuters after sweeping to victory in alliance with the Akel Communist Party. "There will be no social transformation of domestic policy."

Mr. Kyprianou said he would not bring Akel members into his new government. During the election, the hardest fought in 23 years of independence, opponents charged that the Kyprianou-Akel alliance would shift Cyprus into a Communist orbit. Mr. Kyprianou won 57 per cent of the Greek-Cypriot vote, crushing the conservative Glafkos Clerides and the Socialist leader Vassos Lyssariades. Turkish Cypriots in the north of the island, where Turkey's army has been in occupation since the invasion of 1974, played no part in the election. Aides of Mr. Kyprianou said a major objective now would be to inject new life into the long-running intercommunal talks.

Irish police unveil first leads in racehorse kidnap

DUBLIN (R) — Irish police have uncovered their first leads in the theft of champion racehorse Shergar and Monday issued descriptions of three suspects wanted in the case. Police described one of the wanted men as "a jockey type" and said another might possibly have been disguised as a policeman when Shergar was stolen by an armed gang last week. Chief Superintendent James Murphy, the officer heading the search for the dual winner of the 1981 English and Irish Derby Classics, released the descriptions just as hopes were fading that Shergar might be found alive. He refused to divulge where they obtained their lead. But he said the three suspects were believed to be in their 20s and one was thought to have a Northern Ireland accent. The gang held Shergar's groom for several hours when they snatched the prize stallion, syndicated for £10 million (\$15 million), from the Agha Khan's stud near Dublin. Irish bloodstock officials have discounted press reports that secret negotiations were under way for the safe release of Shergar for a substantial reward.

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FEATURES

Baghdad still glamorous despite war

By Nicholas Moore
Reuter

BAGHDAD — Although harrowed by nearly two and a half years of war with Iran, the Iraqi capital of Baghdad continues a struggle to show the world the face of one of the great cosmopolitan cities of the Arab Middle East.

Under glittering chandeliers in the restaurant of a state-owned luxury hotel on the bank of the river Tigris, a trio of young women from Poland, stunningly pretty in severe, black concert dresses, play Viennese waltzes.

For visitors whose minds turn to music, the English-language Baghdad Observer says in its diary that the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra is offering Mozart this month.

It also notes that, after being closed as a wartime precaution, the archaeological museum has reopened.

The treasures there are a reminder that ancient Mesopotamia, southern Iraq, cradled the first known civilisation and, inevitably, witnessed the earliest known wars between organised societies.

Marches and patriotic songs on Baghdad Radio introduce military communiqués on the current war with Iran being fought far away on the southeast frontier.

The newspaper photographs, showing a flat, desert landscape, barbed-wire entanglements and the rows of dead, their blood staining the sand, do something to bring the war home.

But the Iranian air force no longer makes regular bombing raids. There was no blackout early this

month as Iran was reported to have launched a major new battlefield offensive.

Newspapers stressed international calls for peace.

The population of over three million is highly diverse.

Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, Arabs and Kurds, mingle in the streets of the city founded 12 centuries ago as an Arab frontier garrison town which, under such Abbasid caliphs as Haroun Al Rashid, commanded an empire that extended as far as Spain.

Most families have at least one man at the front or serving on other war duties in the Volunteer Popular Army. "You have priority among Iraqi families for you have offered your sons as sacrifices to defend Iraq's sovereignty," a member of the regional command of the ruling Arab

Baath Socialist Party promised the bereaved.

A monument to Iraqi war dead — a huge blue sphere divided down the centre — has been built in the east of the city at a cost put by the government at about \$120 million.

The cost, of \$1 billion, may compel wartime Baghdad to shelve a plan for an underground railway.

But a gleaming new international airport that cost about \$900 million has just opened on schedule. And most West European airlines are now operating regularly to Baghdad, although restricted to night operations for security reasons.

By day, the scream of Iraqi jets taking off to raid Iranian supply dumps and troop concentrations echoes across the city.

A development programme that Western diplomats describe as dramatic has raced ahead despite the war, although non-essential new projects are now being postponed.

Armies of South Korean workers toil on lofty new apartment blocks and a new bridge across the Tigris. An island resort complex specially for newly-weds has been developed. New four-lane highways snake in from the suburbs.

It is as well to drive carefully, however, since residents say that even quite minor repairs can cost 200 dinars (\$600) — almost half the monthly pay of, for instance, an accountant in a modest-sized firm.

The government has made strenuous efforts to keep up the flow of morale-boosting consumer goods.

Miss Monroe's image 'hotter than ever'

By Lin Harris
Reuter

NEW YORK — Twenty years after her death, Marilyn Monroe's shapely image is hotter than ever and that's just the way some people like it, including her heirs — a children's therapy clinic in London.

Miss Monroe's name, shape and image are now licensed properties, handled by an agent for her estate and available to merchandisers willing to pay a royalty.

The results, either in the works or already available, are a 1950s Marilyn Monroe fashion boutique, Marilyn Monroe dolls, Marilyn Monroe cosmetics, Marilyn Monroe T-shirts and dresses, Marilyn Monroe perfume and a Marilyn Monroe "character jug."

month at Bloomingdale's Department Store in New York and it is packing customers in by featuring the clothes which "M.M." made famous as America's reigning screen goddess: Black Capri pants, hat-wing sleeves, full-circle skirts and waist-clincher belts.

No longer can any instant memorabilia merchant plaster a Monroe likeness on some semi-jeweled vulgarity, said Los Angeles lawyer Roger Richman, the agent for her heirs. If they do, he added, they risk being sued.

Mr. Richman acquired the Marilyn Monroe account last year. He said the 20th anniversary of her death on Aug. 5, 1962 had brought increased public interest which translated into both commercial promise and unauthorised exploitation.

According to Kalman Rutenstein, the store's fashion director, the clothing harks back to Miss Monroe by "being closer to the body; tongue-in-cheek sexy and curvaceous."

Mr. Richman defended the merchandising scheme, noting that during her life Marilyn had allowed her image to be used to sell products ranging from Idaho potatoes to lustre creme shampoo. "We are simply continuing what she had been doing and earmarking the profits for causes she supported," he said.

Mr. Rutenstein said one man wanted to sell his store three-dimensional casts of Miss Monroe's famous nude calendar pose in solid chocolate, but was turned down because the item was in bad taste.

"No one can accuse us of stepping beyond bounds," he said.

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HOME NEWS

Youth symposium to be held in Jordan at end of March

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ra'i newspaper has learned that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will patronise the youth symposium to be organised by the Jordanian Human Forum in the last week of next month.

President of the forum Muh-yidin Tawq said that participants in the symposium will discuss several working papers, including the relationship between social changes and youth, national mobilisation, voluntary work, student societies, and incentives to prompt young people to participate in various types of activities.

Dr. Tawq said that the concept of the forum is international in nature and stemmed from the Rome Club which is considered one of the most important intellectual arenas in the world dealing with human issues. The idea is to create a forum for youngsters to discuss issues with an international and youth based bias.

Dr. Tawq explained that the forum held several meetings in Europe and Latin America. An international forum for youth was established, and it began to spread across the parts of the world. It has a coordination bureau in Geneva.

At the request of Prince Hassan, a Jordanian youth, Samir Al Majali, attended one of these forums. The idea appealed to Prince Hassan, and an invitation was extended to hold a meeting in Jordan on December 1981 when an agreement was reached to form the Jordanian human forum.

In the second meeting held in Jordan in February 1982, a constituent assembly of the forum was formed consisting of 30 members. A temporary management board was also elected. The board then drafted the statute of the forum. On Aug. 15, 1982 the Jordanian human forum was officially registered at the Youth Welfare Corporation (YWC).

Dr. Tawq briefly described the forum as an intellectual and cultural association dealing with youth issues and studies. He hoped that the forum will hold a series of symposia to study every type of youth related issue. It will conduct an intensive comprehensive study

on Jordanian youth to determine their problems and ambitions, values and aspirations.

The forum will participate in the celebrations of the international youth year in 1985 representing Jordanian youth. It will also act as a link between Jordanian and Arab youth on the one hand and world youth on the other, he said.

Speaking about the activities of the forum and its preparations for the celebrations marking the international youth year, Dr. Tawq said that the forum has already begun its preparations. The first effort to be made here is to convene a symposium on the international youth year in cooperation with the University of Jordan alumni club.

The forum has also formed a research committee and the committee will act as the main reference source on Jordanian youth, he said. Dr. Tawq expressed the hope that the forum would be able to contribute effectively in all the activities which are beneficial to our community in general and our young people in particular.

In this connection, the forum held two symposia, the first at the University of Jordan and the second at Yarmouk University. Because the first was so successful, now it has plans to hold a series of symposia in cooperation with university alumni clubs.

The forum was also the first to call for the withdrawal of the Nobel Peace Prize from Menachem Begin, and in this lead found a positive response both on the local and Arab levels.

Asfour, Taqi hold talks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Walid Asfour met here Monday with Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi. They discussed matters related to the flow of oil between the two countries.

Agriculture seminar focuses on effect of fertilisers on output

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the consultative seminar on agricultural credit facilities, and the pricing policy of fertilisers continued their meetings here today.

Participants from 14 Arab countries and a group of experts from Arab and international organisations discussed a working paper presented by the representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the supply, demand and pricing of fertilisers, particularly in the Near East.

The working paper discussed the results of a number of reports and studies made on the availability of fertilisers on the international market, as well as the relationship between the use of fertilisers and increased pro-

duction. The working paper explained that in Western Europe for instance, fertilisers contribute to between a 50 to 60 per cent increase of crop production. The FAO working paper said that demand for fertilisers would necessarily reflect their prices, and that the price of fertilisers should be kept strictly under control.

Discussing the production and consumption of fertilisers in the Near East, the working paper said the Arab region is the third largest among the developing regions in the world for the production and consumption of fertilisers. It also said that when the Jordan potash project hits full operational capacity, it is expected to cover the needs of the entire Near East with

extra quantities available for export.

Three other working papers from the Saudi, Sudanese, and Iraqi delegates were also presented to the seminar.

The representative from the Regional Federation for Agricultural Credit in the Middle East, Ibrahim Abdullah, then presented a working paper on the impact of crop subsidies and insurance on the use of fertilisers. It concluded that crop subsidies would increase agricultural productivity and the use of fertilisers.

Earlier in the day, the seminar discussed two working papers presented by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) also on fertilisers.

Aircraft overhaul in Jordan saves Alia an estimated \$1m

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is at present undertaking the first complete overhaul of an aircraft ever to have been done totally in Jordan, according to an article in Alia news.

The overhaul, of a B707 aircraft, is estimated to have saved the airline more than a million dollars, said the bulletin.

The work which is being undertaken at Amman Airport this

week, will be finished at the new Queen Alia International Airport hanger next week when the technical work is complete, the plane will be painted with Sierra Leone Airline's colours and will replace the B707 currently in use by the sister airline.

Many Sierra Leone employees have been sent to Amman for training in various Alia offices, Alia news also said. The highlight of the training component will be

witnessed in early March 1983, when all Sierra Leone Airlines flights will be manned by its own nationals.

Jordanians may apply for higher studies in Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has called on students wishing to continue their higher studies in Italy to submit applications through the Italian embassy in Amman. Only students who have completed a course in the Italian language, and have passed their general secondary school certificate examinations with high marks will be allowed to apply to study medicine and other science based subjects, the ministry said in a statement.

Council ends discussion of draft traffic law

NCC wishes PNC success in Algiers

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Consultative Council (NCC) has welcomed the Palestinian National Council (PNC) conference, currently being convened in Algiers, and wished it success in making appropriate decisions under such difficult circumstances. The NCC members discussed at length the importance of its forthcoming decision, at such a decisive time in the history of the Palestinian issue.

for 1982 approving seven of its articles. It also discussed the decision of the joint committee, comprising legal, social and educational committee members, on the draft law amending the juvenile delinquency law and approved it as submitted by the committee.

Among the seven articles of the traffic draft law was an article forming a central committee for traffic headed by the Interior Minister, and consisting of nine members representing departments concerned with traffic affairs. The powers of this committee were defined as to regulate traffic and transport in the country, and to draw up regulations concerning the condition of road using vehicles. Traffic subcommittees would also be formed in every governorate to be headed by the governor.

The NCC, meeting Monday under its first Vice-Chairman Kamal Al Dajani in the presence of cabinet ministers, also discussed the government reply stating the amount of money that would be allocated to build the court complex in Ma'an. The reply said that JD 100,000 in this year's budget had been put aside with the project's implementation beginning next year.

The NCC also referred its two proposals for the establishment of a district office in the Hasban area, and the building of a road leading to the Amman military staff college starting from either the desert crossroad or the Na'ur/Wadi El Seer crossroad. The proposals will now go to the government for consideration.

The NCC also completed the discussion of the traffic draft law

ALO conference team to be chosen

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry is currently holding talks with the Federation of Jordanian Chamber of Commerce with the purpose of selecting a joint delegation that will join the government team to the Arab Labour Organisation's (ALO's) conference which opens in Amman on March 6, according to the chamber's Director-General Ali Dajani.

He said that the conference will review a report by the ALO president on the activities of the Arab Labour Office, and study means of implementing the ALO's earlier recommendations and resolutions.

Apart from this the delegates to the March conference, which is expected last 10 days, will review a memorandum to be submitted to the International Labour Organisation's 69th session in Geneva. The delegates will also look at labour-related issues such as the rate of labourers' wages, social services, and a plan for improving the standard of Arab labour force. Mr. Dajani said.

Jordanian rally team gets back after harrowing time in poorly organised contest in Kuwait

By Ara Voskian
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Automobile Club team, which represented Jordan in the Kuwaiti rally, returned to Amman Sunday night, club officials said Monday. The Kuwait Rally was held on the afternoon of Feb. 10 and continued until the following day.

Commenting on the rally, the Royal Automobile Club General Manager, Mr. Derek Ledger said that the Jordanian team confronted difficulties in the beginning because of the soft sand on the "tracks which were so bad all the cars were getting stuck."

Ziad Bustani was one of the participants representing Jordan and "during the rally a four-wheel-drive car driver by Kuwaiti youths started playing in front of Ziad's car," said Mr. Ledger, "and later on Ziad's car overturned."

Luckily there were no injuries but by the time Ziad's car, a Datsun Silvia, was righted and checked, the one hour time limit was up and Ziad was out of the rally.

Jordan's second participant, Mr. Hailey Aguilier, made a good start but he got stuck in the sand," said Mr. Ledger. "He had more bad luck when he later ran out of petrol." Mr. Aguilier added to this by saying that at one of the stops "the rally officials were asleep and by the time we woke them up, precious time had been lost." Mr. Aguilier finished in twelfth place.

"If there hadn't been any (organisational) snags," said Mr. Ledger, "our drivers would have finished in fifth or sixth place."

Mr. Ledger added that out of 39 cars that started the rally only 13 finished. Of the remaining 26 cars, ten got stuck in the soft sand and the rest dropped out due to mechanical faults or accidents.

Talking about the organisation of the Kuwait Rally, Mr. Ledger said that everybody was complaining. "The tracks were limited, while there were neither police nor ambulances in case anyone was injured."

"In one incident during the rally the army came with machineguns and asked what was happening,"

added Mr. Ledger. According to the Jordanian team the rally was badly organised. "In terms of organisation there was no comparison with our rally," said the club manager. "The Jordan Rally is the most efficient and the best (rally) in the Middle East," he continued.

Mr. Aguilier added to this saying "we can do much better, we (The Royal Automobile Club) are professionals". The Royal Automobile Club is organising the 1983 international rally which will be held on August 11-12. More than 50 cars are expected to participate, half of which will be from Jordan, while almost 15 cars will come from Kuwait with the UAE and European countries being represented.

The Marriott Hotel is sponsoring the Jordan International Rally which will cover 1,500 kilometres from Azraq to Aqaba. Before the international rally, the club is organising its bi-annual National Rally, a one day event, on April 29 which will cover 280 kilometres.

Continued from page 1

Arens to succeed Sharon

Arens' appointment is confirmed in parliament.

Mr. Arens said Monday he entirely agreed with Israeli policies and had not altered his views on Israel's political and military requirements while ambassador in Washington.

He told Israel Radio in an interview from Washington: "I'm in full agreement with all government policies, otherwise I would not agree to hold down my job as ambassador."

"My views on Israel's needs, politically and militarily, have not changed as a result of my work in the U.S."

He said he immediately accepted Prime Minister Begin's offer last week to become defence minister, adding that the continued presence in the cabinet of Mr. Sharon did not worry him.

Mr. Arens, appointed as ambassador in Washington only a year ago, is a right-winger who at one stage refused an offer to become defence minister because he opposed the handback of Sinai to Egypt under the Camp David treaty with Egypt.

Mr. Arens is expected to return home in a few days and to take up his new post as soon as he is confirmed by the Knesset.

Born in Lithuania, the American-educated professor has helped design Israeli aircraft and is a specialist on propulsion and flight mechanics.

As defence minister, Mr. Arens takes over Israel's second most powerful post and is responsible for security and the government of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Government officials say the choice of Mr. Arens shows there will be no change in Israel's policies, particularly its settlement drive in the West Bank.

Last year, Mr. Arens created a stir when he recommended that Israel temporarily halt its settlement programme to improve its image following the Lebanon war.

Mr. Arens later denied this meant he had softened his views, adding that he still strongly supported building up a Jewish population in the territory.

As ambassador to Washington, he has frequently been in the firing line through one of the stormiest periods in Israeli-U.S. relations and has gained a reputation as a forthright spokesman for Israel's controversial policies.

In an American television interview Sunday, he said the subject of the Beirut massacre was now closed and that the judicial inquiry commission, which reported last week, had done a very thorough job.

Mr. Arens also said he disagreed with President Reagan that Israel's settlements policy was an obstacle to peace.

PLO reaction

In Algiers, a spokesman for the PLO said the appointment of Mr. Arens as Israel's defence minister in place of Mr. Sharon was a change of personalities rather than strategy.

Spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said Mr. Arens was a "warmonger" whose appointment would have little impact on Israeli defence attitudes.

Peres assails Begin

Mr. Sharon remains in the cabinet as minister without portfolio, while Mr. Begin is due to fill the defence post until Israel's ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arens, is confirmed as the new defence minister.

Mr. Begin opened the Knesset (parliament) debate with a brief statement on Sunday's cabinet decision. Mr. Sharon was not in the chamber.

Mr. Peres said it was clear the government would win a majority for the reshuffle but, he added, the people would gain a deplorable example of democracy in action.

"The politicians gave themselves a partial pardon and Sharon announced he would not resign. Is this how you educate the public and the young generation in the values of democracy?"

He said the opposition would continue to press for the full implementation of the inquiry commission's recommendations however long this should take.

At Monday's debate, Mr. Peres quoted extensively from a speech by Mr. Begin in 1974 after the publication of a report into Israeli errors before and during the 1973 war.

"Prime minister, should you not listen to the words of Mr. Menachem Begin?" Mr. Peres asked sarcastically.

Mr. Begin and other government ministers listened in silence as the Labour leader read out whole paragraphs from Mr. Begin's 1974 speech demanding the then Labour government's resignation.

UAE urges European role

with visiting Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Der Broek, the Emirates news agency, WAM, said.

Mr. Abdullah also urged the European community to spearhead peace efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, WAM said, quoting him as saying the protracted Gulf war endangered the region's security and did not serve Iranian or Iraqi interests.

Mr. Van Der Broek was quoted by WAM as saying the European community had not taken a biased stand in the 29-month-old war but was trying to help end it.

maintained its impartiality with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict while asserting the right to security for all peoples in the region, WAM said.

Mr. Van Der Broek said an Arab peace plan and President Reagan's initiative for the Middle East, both launched last September, formed the basis for a peaceful settlement.

The Arab plan calls for an independent Palestinian state while the Reagan initiative envisages a Palestinian homeland in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

Israel, he said. "If not, we will be a people without land, without sovereignty, living under occupation."

"While the Arabs elsewhere continue quarrelling among themselves over petty differences, we will be a people with no future," Mr. Freij said.

Support for PLO

Hundreds of local Palestinian figures, who risk being banned from the West Bank if they attend the PNC meeting in Algiers, Monday signed a petition in support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

They called on the PNC "to

stand strongly against the United States" because the Reagan plan "doesn't recognise the right to a Palestinian state."

Meanwhile, a poll of Palestinians in a West Bank Arabic newspaper found 80 per cent favoured a continued Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue.

The poll of 740 West Bank and Gaza residents published in the Al Bayader Al Sassi weekly found just over 17 per cent opposed a dialogue with Jordan and 2.5 per cent had no opinion.

Nearly two-thirds of the respondents said they did not believe a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue would be fruitful, while just under a third thought a dialogue would have results.

Freij appeals to PNC for urgent action

continue the occupation and build more settlements."

Mr. Freij called on the PNC to adopt "pragmatic, courageous and practical resolutions that will enable us to protect our Arab identity and protect Arab land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

He returned to Bethlehem last week after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein. He said he stressed to them the urgency of the situation.

"I believe we will reach the point of no return within two months. Last December, I said we were standing at five minutes to zero. Now, it is zero hour," he said.

Israel's settlement drive on the

West Bank has accelerated this year. About 25,000 Jews live "in the Arab territory, compared with 850,000 Palestinians, but the Jewish population is expected to double this summer when more Israeli families move into nearly completed residential estates."

Israel has also recently stepped up its drive to take over unutilised or state-owned land for new Jewish settlements.

"People here are very frustrated and recognise that time is against them. The present political stalemate is simply helping Israel," Mr. Freij said.

The PNC meeting in Algiers presented Palestinians with perhaps the last chance to change course and start negotiating with

Nabulsi starts tour to discuss unified Arab dinar scheme

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi will take part in three Pan-Arab meetings which will be held in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Morocco altogether lasting for 10 days. It has been announced.

Dr. Nabulsi will discuss Jordanian proposals for issuing a unified Arab dinar with the Arab Monetary Fund's board chairman.

In Kuwait, Dr. Nabulsi will attend the annual meeting of the committee charged with supervising the work and activities of the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation.

Dr. Nabulsi will later head of Jordanian delegation to Morocco to take part in a seminar on the role of Arab specialised credit organisations, which will be held in cooperation with the Moroccan government and the Arab Development Fund.

One month administration seminar planned to train 20 government employees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Administration Institute in Jordan will organise a course on methods of administration on March 12.

The aim of the course, which will last for one month, is to train people to become specialists in administration in the different government ministries by enhancing their knowledge and skills in order to deal with organisational problems. The course also aims to provide the participants with a basic grasp of modern administrative concepts, and to develop their skills in this field. The institute has already sent the course registration forms to all government departments and is expecting about 20 participants to attend.

A necessary prerequisite of course participation is a university degree while the aspiring participants should have spent at least two years in their jobs.

Course lectures will focus on managerial organisation, job descriptions, performance averages and other topics related to methods of organisation.

Japanese films to show at Chamber of Industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — A mini Japanese film festival is to be staged in Amman between Feb. 19 and 21, according to a spokesman from the Japanese Embassy.

A different film is to be shown on each of the successive days with Arabic sub-titles being used on all of them.

The films, which are to be shown at the Chamber of Industry off Second Circle Jabal Amman,

are for adults and children except for the last one, Melody in Gray, which is for adults only.

The film show is being organised by the Japanese Embassy in conjunction with the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association. The first two films, Little Adventures and Branch School Diary, will commence at 5 p.m., while the third will begin at 7 p.m.

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In whose interest is it?

PERHAPS the failure of Iran's latest offensive against Iraq this month will not be enough to make the Tehran regime change its mind about pursuing its declared war aims. Just how much more blood will have to be spilled before peace is re-established between the two Muslim nations, we cannot know.

One thing is clear though: Iraq and Iran have had enough, and it must be understood that no military solution exists for their problems, although it is obvious that Iran carries the full responsibility for continuing the war and for no good reason at all.

We all know that for an Iraq-Iran settlement to be reached, the war must end with no illegitimate gains for either party. Baghdad has repeatedly said that if Tehran accepts Iraq's territorial integrity and non-interference in Iraqi internal affairs it is willing to sit and negotiate without any prior conditions. President Saddam Hussein has even offered to go personally to Tehran and hold direct negotiations with the Iranian leaders. Regrettably, however, Ayatollah Khomeini's attitude has not been as positive; on the contrary, nothing more negative than toppling the Iraqi government will do as far as he and his regime are concerned.

Amid all the bloodshed and destruction in the 29-month-old war, comes the even more dangerous, or at best negative, Arab attitude, especially that adopted by Syria and Libya. It is not enough that President Assad and Col. Qadhafi will not use their comradeship influence with the Iranian leaders to stop the killing of fellow Arabs and Muslims, they share the dangerous Iranian view that no settlement can be reached except through a change of regime in Iraq.

For how much longer can we Arabs, the Iranian people themselves and the rest of the world tolerate this horrible sight of blood and war? Is not there something that we could and should do? This senseless war must be stopped, now.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: PNC must give fresh impetus for peace

The present session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) is the focus of Arab and world public attention. But those who will be affected most by the outcome of the PNC meeting are the Palestinian people living in the occupied Arab territories. They are the ones who directly experience the Zionist occupation, suffer its repressive policies and physically face its settlement plans.

The appeals made by several prominent West Bank and Gaza personalities reflects Palestinian public opinion which wants to see the PNC session make decisions that will give a new impetus to the peace process in the region. They also hope to see

the PNC grant a full mandate to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership to fight the peace battle, in unison with the Jordanian people, with the same courage that its leadership fought the battle of Beirut.

The shift in world opinion in favour of the Palestinian people and their cause that followed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon must be capitalised upon, for it is time the Palestinian people, in collaboration with Jordan, were given a free hand to achieve new political gains in this improved international atmosphere.

Al Dustour: PNC session-most critical in Palestinian history

The Palestine National Council Monday opens its sixteenth session, which is certainly the most critical of all sessions throughout its history. The developments that have been taking place in the Middle East and on the world scene require the utmost sensitivity in approaching the coming stages of the peace process.

Among the most outstanding issues the PNC faces is the need for the preservation of an independent Palestinian decision-making process, free from outside influences. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership, which fought the battle of Beirut and faced the Israeli war-machine single handed, is entitled to decide its own future.

Sawt Al Shaab: PNC must review its whole Mideast strategy

The Palestine National Council (PNC), which is starting its sixteenth session Monday, is sure to review and then revise its armed struggle in the wake of the battle of Beirut, and the loss of its base from which to confront Israel in South Lebanon.

After eighteen years of armed struggle and thousands of martyres, a reconsideration of the whole of its strategy in the Middle East and the world arena should be made by the PNC. The battle for Lebanon has gained the Palestinian people and its cause great support throughout the world and, regardless of pressures that might be exerted on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to take

course of action to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon did not have Lebanese soil as its only objective, for it also aimed at concentrating world attention on Lebanon, thus facilitating its annexationist aspirations in the West Bank and Gaza. Top priority must be given to foiling the enemy's settlement plans, as without their land, the Palestinian people has no identity or autonomy. The only path open to the Arab struggle at the present stage is a peaceful one. Therefore it is of great urgency to make use of such a path to achieve these national targets, the ultimate of which is to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories.

unrealistic decisions, the Palestinian leadership, after having faced the Israeli courageously and alone, has a right to review its programme.

Can we learn from the contradiction?

By Rami G. Khouri

It was perhaps inevitable that the debate following the publication of the findings of the Israeli commission of inquiry into the massacres at Sabra and Shatila camps would lapse into the standard old arguments of right and wrong, good and bad, Israel and the Arabs. The commission's report should be an opportunity for the Arab World to analyse more closely — and more honestly — the true basis of Israeli society, and, by comparison, of Arab society. I would make the following points on the matter:

1. It is a meaningless exercise to take the commission of inquiry's findings and from there to extrapolate about the global morality or immorality of Israel. Many professionally invidious people to the West, especially in the United States, have seized the opportunity to climb the highest locally available mountain top and from there to proclaim to the world below that Israel is, indeed, a society of high and irreproachable morality. The counter-argument from the Arab World has been that the commission of inquiry's findings are a procedural nicety that cannot hide the horrors and terrors of Zionism during the past 50 years. Both arguments have some truth in them, but as attempts to judge the commission of inquiry's findings in absolute terms, I think both should be handled with care.

2. It would make a great deal more sense to treat the commission of inquiry as a separate, isolated phenomenon, rather than to see it as a mirror of all Israeli society. As such,

the commission of inquiry, and its findings which appear to have been accepted by the Israeli political establishment, strike me as a valuable mechanism of political accountability. For in the final analysis, this is what we are talking about: The political accountability of public officials who are either directly elected by their people or are appointed by and kept in check by those leaders who are directly elected by their people and are subject to reconfirmation or rejection by an electoral or a parliamentary process. In this respect, our usually intemperate American friends are more or less correct: Israel is a democratic country in the sense that its elected and/or appointed officials are held accountable for their actions before a tribunal rooted in the principle of the consent of the governed.

That powerful ministers can be removed from office and senior army officers relieved of field command in this manner is indeed the reflection of a democratic and a republican political order. But, having said this, I will quickly add that the principle of whether or not Israel is a democracy is altogether irrelevant in this case, because we are not, or should not be, discussing the internal political structure of Israel. What concerns us are the actions of the state of Israel as a whole, irrespective of whether it is a democracy or a tyrannical dictatorship. We saw in Vietnam and Algeria how manifestly democratic countries, such as the United States and France, could employ tactics of the

most cruel barbarity, totally against all the accepted principles of otherwise democratic and compassionate societies. We must approach discussions of this sort with the clear understanding that democratic countries are not necessarily humane and reasonable in their treatment of other countries or other people. Democracy is a process and a principle that applies to the internal political organisation of one's resources and institutions. As such, Israel is clearly a democracy. But in its foreign affairs and its treatment of Palestinians and Lebanese and other Arabs, it is the total antithesis of a democratic country.

3. In the case of Israel, we are dealing with a predatory, imperial and often inhuman democracy — a contradiction in terms at first reading, but a fact of life nevertheless. One recalls the actions of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger in the early 1970s, when, among other things, they unleashed a massive series of air attacks against Haiphong in North Vietnam. Is this the act of a democracy? Yes, it is. Mr. Nixon learned the full meaning of what a democracy is a few years later when Senate impeachment proceedings against him were to begin and he resigned instead of being thrown out of office. This is democracy at its best, and at its most pure. We have a similar situation in Israel today. Israel is being run by a militaristic leadership whose actions against the Arabs are governed by brute terror, siege warfare, indiscriminate destruction and the

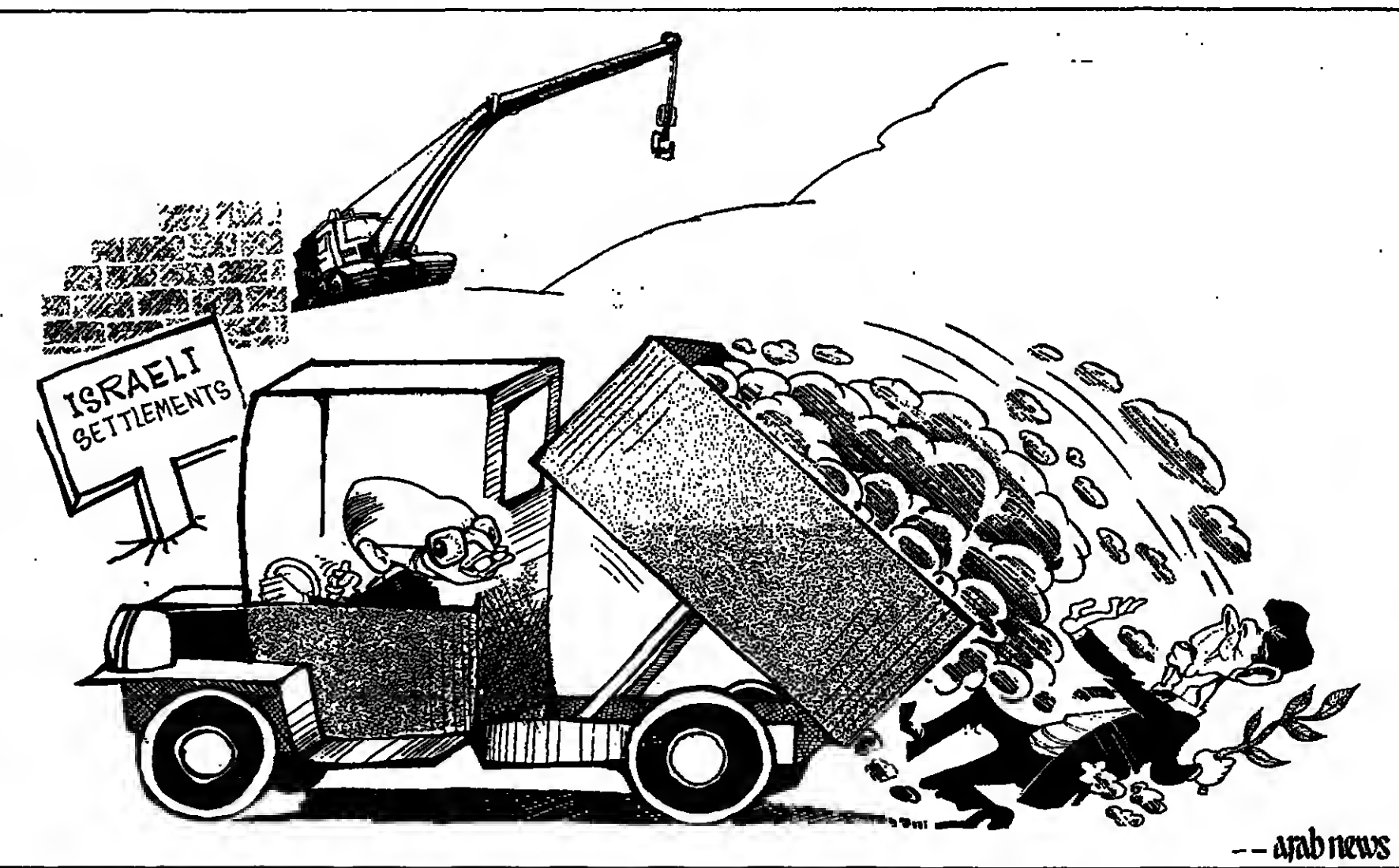
supremacy of the gun; and yet, this same leadership meekly submits to a commission of inquiry whose results reaffirm in dramatic fashion the principle of democratic control being vested in the people. This is a contradiction that is difficult for Arab societies to understand. Therefore, we assume either that the commission of inquiry is an aberration in the political life of Israel (which it is not), or that it is part of an infinitely more complex conspiracy designed to give Israel the appearance of a democracy and to hide its militaristic core.

4. We need also to judge Israel not in a vacuum, but within the universe that it has defined for itself — from the Euphrates to the Nile. I think that a far more useful exercise than trying to tuck the commission of inquiry into the folds of what we see only as the terrorist soul of Israel would be to isolate the institutional mechanism of the commission and to try and draw parallels with what happens in the Arab World when public officials are thought perhaps to have transgressed the bounds of public order, decency, decorum or trust. Arab political orders are not founded on the same bases as Western democracies, and therefore we should not expect them to work in exactly the same manner. But I think it would be a monumental failure for Arab societies simply to dismiss the Israeli commission of inquiry as an exercise in propaganda. One needs to ask oneself some simple questions, such as: Why is it that with all the money and land and water

and labour that have been available to the Arab World during the past several decades, we have become increasingly reliant on imports of food from other countries, and that every year we grow less and less of the food we consume? Isn't this a subject worthy of an Arab commission of inquiry?

5. It is easy to dismiss the Israeli commission of inquiry and to point to the record of Israeli atrocities as proof of the real character of political Zionism. But isn't this precisely why, 35 years after the creation of Israel and some 100 years after the first Zionist Congress in Basel, we are trying to get the Israelis out of Lebanon, keep them away from Jordan, temper their penchant for attacks against Iraqi nuclear reactors and overflights over other neighbouring Arab states, and bring about a withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza and the Golan Heights?

One would think that the proper Arab attitude now would be to study the mechanism and the political meaning of the commission of inquiry, and to appreciate from such a study why it is that we are where we are, and they are where they are. Isn't it time that we started inquiring about ourselves and our predicament? Our Israeli foes are a vicious, terroristic, predatory, imperial and violent democracy. Unless we start dealing with this contradictory reality, we will be condemned to keep suffering from it for another 35 years — during which the price of imported food will only keep rising.



— Arab news

Colombia's guerrillas reject amnesty offer

By Francisco Tulande
Reuter

BOGOTA — Colombia's guerrilla groups, after some soul-searching, have largely rejected an amnesty offer from President Belisario Betancur and are stepping up attacks and kidnappings.

A resurgence in the 20-year-old guerrilla struggle after a two-month lull following the offer is causing rumblings among the military and raises the possibility of a return to the state of emergency under which Colombians have lived almost continuously for the last 31 years.

Along with guerrilla violence has come an increase in non-political kidnappings, long a favoured form of criminal activity in this country, Colombia, like many Latin American countries, sees its traditional problems of social inequality aggravated by current economic difficulties and rising unemployment.

President Betancur's amnesty offer for guerrillas accused of crimes other than kidnapping and murder is not the first.

It goes beyond earlier offers, however, by earmarking some \$800 million over four years to ease the guerrillas' return to civilian life by providing land, work, and health and education services. It has had some success, despite gloomy predictions from some politicians. The interior ministry says 360 guerrillas have given themselves up and a further 270

have been released from prison. Many may have just given up guerrilla life.

The two-month relative truce ended last month. Interior Minister Rodrigo Escobar told the press the amnesty offer had been successful and meant "the failure of subversion which uselessly spilled blood for 20 years."

But the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) look over a village for several hours and announced its rejection of the offer. It has since stepped up attacks and kidnappings. Clandestine bulletins purporting to come from the biggest guerrilla group, M-19, although not signed by its top leaders, have also announced a resumption of "military activities."

3,500 guerrillas

The group claimed responsibility for several kidnappings recently, and military sources believe they may be trying to obtain high ransoms to finance stepped-up fighting.

Officials say there are still some 3,500 guerrillas active in the country, 70 per cent of them belonging to M-19, and that they have killed 40 people since the Nov. 19 amnesty offer. Mr. Escobar admitted last week that "peace is deteriorating when the nation expected a new stage of democratic coexistence."

He said President Betancur, elected last year largely on his

amnesty offer, could reimpose a state of siege on the country if the situation continued to worsen. A state of siege was lifted last June by former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala.

The amnesty rejection and guerrilla threats to go back on the war path have increased the military. It has warned law and order is collapsing and that guerrillas will be treated as common criminals.

"Those who have rejected amnesty are nothing more than violence-traffickers who kidnap, kill and extort for dollars," the defence minister, General Fernando Landazabal Reyes wrote in an armed forces magazine.

"Military emblems are for victory, not for surrender and humiliation." His tough stand caused an outcry among liberals who accused him of interfering in the government's attempt at national reconciliation.

The military has been further angered by charges from a human rights group that it has recruited civilians under threat to wipe out guerrilla leaders. Three alleged members of an underground group called "death to the kidnappers" (MAS), jailed for murder, said they were armed and paid by the military.

MAS claimed responsibility for the deaths of at least 100 people last year. Police sources said it was made up of drug traffickers defending their property from common criminals and leftist gue-

rrillas.

The military commander-in-chief, General Gustavo Matamoros, in turn accused civilians of helping the guerrillas and asked the state prosecutor to press charges against people he said were working against the constitutional government and individual freedom.

Guerrilla movements in Colombia date back to the emergence of the Castroist National Liberation Army (ELN) in the early 1960s. The pro-Communist FARC, the leftist M-19 and the pro-Chinese People's Liberation

Army (ELP) appeared later. The defence ministry says 200 military, 280 guerrillas and 100 civilians died in political violence in 1981, while the toll for last year was 40 military, 215 guerrillas and 150 civilians.

Official figures show 40 people — 15 guerrillas, eight policemen, two soldiers and 15 civilians — have died in resumed fighting since the beginning of this year. At least 30 civilians have been kidnapped, and guerrillas are currently demanding \$25 million for the daughter of a prominent banker.

LETTERS

Seoul's good old days?

To the Editor:

Being very busy during the last two weeks, I could not write to you on time regarding your article "Living conditions deteriorate as world's cities burgeon" (Jordan Times, Jan. 26, 1983).

In fact the picture of a shanty town on the "outskirts of Seoul", published with the above mentioned article, took me back with the memory to those old beautiful days when I was a schoolboy.

Now, it is with pleasure I note that such a scene has not been seen in Seoul for almost 20 years.

Young-Min Kwon
Counsellor
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Amman

U.S. strategy in the Arab Gulf region

By Tareq Masarwah
Al Ra'i Columnist

Two billion dollars, originally allocated to the strategic oil reserve expenditure, in the U.S. Federal budget, were labelled unnecessary and done away with by the U.S. administration. The U.S. secretary of energy in a reply to a question in the U.S. Senate on the Federal budget recently, pointed out that the Arab Gulf region is no more of strategic importance to the U.S., as the possibility of an oil embargo on the U.S. has now become quite remote.

When another U.S. senator raised the issue of the rapid deployment force, the cost of which exceeded \$2 billion, and which was meant to protect the Gulf region, the secretary of energy went back to his talk of the world oil supply, which had now become more comfortable, and clarified that the daily reserve output had now dropped to 145,000 barrels a day, compared to 216,000 barrels a day last year.

With all respect to the knowledge and studies of the Arab foreign ministries on the international situation, we believe that a follow-up of the debates on the annual budget of the super powers, and the U.S. in the first place, is of great importance, and is probably of more importance for the understanding of U.S. pol-

icies than to follow up statements made by the White House, the State Department or Pentagon official spokesmen. The Federal budget is the only stable factor in the U.S. political process, in particular the aspects pertaining to foreign policy. Three years ago, former President Carter stated that the Arab Gulf region is a U.S. security region, and gave orders to set up a so-called rapid deployment force to face Soviet ambitions that had then founded a bridge-head in Afghanistan.

Egypt, Somalia and Oman gave "facilities" to the newly-formed force. Later on military exercises by this force in collaboration with forces from these countries took place on the latter's territories. All these noisy preparations came down to nothing after the clarification by the U.S. secretary of energy clarifying that the Arab Gulf region no longer was of strategic significance, as an oil embargo had become highly improbable.

Such facts should be properly considered by the Arabs in particular, and Third World politicians in general. Those who work out their policies based on an accurate follow-up of statements and speeches made by the leaders of the super powers should know

better. They had better look into facts and realities behind such speeches.

Three years ago, former Egyptian President Sadat built up a policy based on the rapid deployment force. He decided to rent the Red Sea for the force. President Siad Barre of Somalia at the same time thought his willingness to rent the Berbera seaport to the force would end his poverty. On the other hand the steadfast Arab group started shouting their resounding slogans against the "military offensive of U.S. imperialism", without noticing that the U.S. threat practically is posed against the Arab Gulf states. The threat is there to fend off a possible Arab oil embargo against the U.S., because of its hostile role played in the Camp David accords, and its despicable role in the present Gulf war.

Big powers have their interests, and we, small peoples, have our interests too. But the interests of the former are in no way similar to those of the latter. If it ever crosses our minds that such conflicting interests might meet somewhere, somehow, then we are simply subject to self-deception as it is in the interest of the big powers to destroy our interests.

مركز الصحافة

New report predicts real catastrophe as deserts spread

The big questions about desertification are: how people create deserts, how they could stop doing so, and why they don't, says Earthscan, the London-based information service on environment and development issues.

Despite a decade of aid, Africa's Sahel region is ripe for another disaster like the 1968-73 drought, which killed between 50,000 and 250,000 people and 3.5 million cattle, according to a new Earthscan report on the worldwide problem of desertification.

cent. says the report, by Alan Grainger.

The drought focussed world attention on the precarious existence of arid land dwellers. Rich nations formed the "Club du Sahel" to funnel money into the stricken region. The Sahel nations formed their own organisation (CILSS) to prevent another such disaster.

Over 1975-80, \$7.46 billion in aid was committed to the region. By 1979, per capita aid in the Sahel was \$40, while for Africa as a whole it was \$19. Both the Club and CILSS proclaimed that their main goal was food self-sufficiency for the region. But little of the aid has gone toward this goal.

forestry projects. So the region's people, most of whom make their living in subsistence agriculture (89 per cent in Niger, 87 per cent in Mali), were getting little benefit from the money. The Club itself

Every year, some 200,000 square kilometres of land deteriorate to the point of zero economic return. Unless desertification can be halted by the year 2000 ... it will be out of control.

finds that reforestation rates are 50 times too slow.

The wealthy nations would rather spend money on roads, bridges, dams and buildings. These may mean jobs for contractors and orders for equipment from back home. Such projects are easier to identify and keep tabs on. The

governments are also happy to keep aid money, and especially food aid, in the cities, where the police, civil servants and soldiers live. Farmers are the politically weakest citizens in arid lands, so

desertification rarely becomes a "political" problem.

Contradictions between goals and reality have played havoc with the work of U.N. agencies. Personal and organisational antipathies have developed, and some agencies work almost openly against one another.

A major U.N. conference on desertification in 1977 agreed on a precise plan of action, with national, regional and international programmes. Although two-thirds of the world's nations suffer from desertification, very little has been done since then. In 1977, the U.N. set up a "Special Account" to combat desertification; but five years later only one contribution had come in — \$5,000 from Mexico.

Every year some 200,000 sq km of land — an area larger than Senegal — deteriorates to the point of zero economic return. U.N. Environment Programme executive director Mostafa Tolba said in 1982 that this rate was accelerating. Unless desertification can be halted by the year 2000, he warned, it would be out of control.

Droughts do not cause desertification; people do — by over-

grazing their herds, over-cultivating, cutting too many trees for firewood and building faulty irrigation projects.

But a drought makes the land more fragile, more prone to the pressures of humans trying to feed themselves. And a Club du Sahel/CILSS report found that "prolonged drought is, in a way, a normal phenomenon in the Sahel... The Sahel must be prepared to confront new periods of drought in the future".

Last year severe droughts struck in the continents of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and Latin America, doing millions of dollars worth of damage to crops and livestock. In fact, a U.S. scientist proclaimed that the Sahel drought has never really ended.

Science has found ways of coping with desertification. There are trees which grow fast in arid lands,

while providing fodder for livestock. China and South Korea — two very different countries politically — have shown how to make mass forestry work. There are cropping techniques which protect fragile soils. Land can be irrigated without turning fields into salty wastes.

But no ways have been found to motivate politicians. For the present, serious droughts and famines remain the only events able to focus world attention on the problems of the one-third of the

Earth's surface which is arid and semi-arid.

As for the Sahel, "I think the area is slowly deteriorating" said a U.S. relief worker. "Whether you see the desert as advancing or the Sahel as losing ground, a real catastrophe is on the way," said the director of a Niger forestry project.

More information, and copies of the report are available from Earthscan, 10 Percy Street, London W1PODR, U.K.



In Sudan, villages become centres of expanding desert as livestock overgraze around them



Carrying firewood home in Niger; wood can be harder to find than food



Tree cover disappears under onslaught of man and animals

Misuse of pesticides can poison environment, endanger man

By Mustapha M. Salma
Special to the Jordan Times

Jordan imports over 1,000 tonnes of pesticides, costing over JD 2 million, each year. But these chemicals can be highly toxic to human beings, and their improper use can lead to death or serious illness. Continued misuse or over-use of pesticides can also have an adverse effect on the environment by poisoning natural habitats and being ingested by birds and animals. Once absorbed into the "food chain", pesticides can leave chemical residues in the food we eat, such as meat, milk, and bread.

In contrast to all other contaminants, pesticides are introduced into the environment to perform beneficial functions: improved agricultural productivity, control of insect-borne diseases such as malaria, sanitation in houses and recreational areas.

Around the world, man has

been introducing millions of kilograms of chemicals into the environment, in the form of approximately 34,000 pesticide products formulated from more than 100 chemical compounds, with little understanding of the pesticides' long-term effects.

In general, pesticides by design are biologically active chemicals which act by disrupting the normal chemical balance within the target organism.

Reactions to pesticide exposure vary greatly. They include damage to the central nervous system, digestive and respiratory tracts, eyes, skin, visceral organs, mucous membranes, and the brain.

The risks of pesticide use on the environment lie in their selectivity, and persistence. An ideal pesticide would affect only the pest that it is intended to kill, while it is harmless to non-target organisms and breaks down into harmless constituents after achieving its purpose. This ideal pesticide,

however, is far from being obtained.

Today many pesticides are selective to a certain extent. This selectivity may be increased by the choice of formulation or by the timing and method of application. Organic pesticides' rate of breakdown is dependent on their chemical structure and on a wide range of factors such as temperature and moisture conditions, soil type and acidity.

The widespread use of pesticides has been accompanied by serious problems to man and his environment. Every year a number of persons are killed and still more are made seriously ill through failing to follow instructions on pesticide labels or ignorance of pesticide toxicity.

For example, pesticide application to cotton in Nicaragua is said to have led to 300 deaths and over 3,000 cases of poisoning in 1970.

It is now well known that many

pesticides at various exposure levels will cause illness. Some highly toxic pesticides which include organophosphates such as malathion and parathion can cause death or serious illness if only one drop of the concentrated chemical touches the skin.

In Pakistan in 1976, 2500 malaria control workers were poisoned by malathion and five died, because of ignorance in handling and spraying. Poisoning was more acute in this case because of impurities in some batches of the malathion powder.

The organophosphorus insecticides persist for only a few days or weeks, while most of organochlorine compounds are highly persistent, that is, they exhibit a very low rate of degradation. However, these chlorinated hydrocarbons (e.g. aldrin, dieldrin, toxaphene, and DDT), are only mildly toxic and are usually dangerous only in large doses.

The adverse effect on the environment of the use of these less

toxic but slower degrading pesticides has been documented by measured lethal concentrations in dead wildlife. The delayed health effects on humans — as there chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds, soluble in body fat, are passed on in the food chain — may be many years in appearing.

After prolonged use, the previously sensitive target organisms become tolerant to pesticides and are said to have developed resistance. It is difficult to obtain a clear picture of the extent and seriousness of the resistance problem in Jordan, because we have no data. Resistance is a serious problem but hopefully it might not become a major constraint on agricultural production.

Pesticides are a mixed blessing. They will continue to play a vital role in food production, as well as in public health. On the other hand, we have noted earlier that the widespread use of pesticides

involves some risks for people and wildlife. Therefore, in order to reconcile this conflict we must adopt a policy which ensures that the amount and toxicity of pesticides used are as low as possible, consistent with well recognised tolerance standards and meeting agricultural objectives. Subsequently, an effective pesticides control programme should be based upon three specific areas:

One, registration of pesticides (whether they are for general or restricted use), in order to prevent harmful products from entering the market, and the requirement of labelling to ensure proper use. Products should be registered only if they perform their intended functions without unreasonable adverse effect on man and his environment.

If at any time new facts surface that indicate continued use of the pesticide will result in an imminent threat to human health or the environment, then the reg-

istration of that pesticide may be cancelled.

Two, the use of pesticides should be controlled. Only certified applicators should be able to apply pesticides for general or restricted use. The Ministry of Agriculture should train and certify applicators. Operators who are not certified should not be allowed to work with pesticides.

Three, monitoring networks should be established to determine the health and environmental effects of pesticides, including also the routine sampling of pesticide products from the market place to determine conformity with their labels.

In addition, much research is needed to determine the extent of the pesticide resistance problem in Jordan and to establish pesticide baseline data in our environment and the food we eat.

To conclude, it must be acknowledged that pesticides are crucial in modern agriculture and will

continue to play an important part in the foreseeable future. Many of the hazards arising from pesticide use are the result of inadequate techniques of application.

Furthermore, the possibility remains that pesticides are used unnecessarily. According, we can reduce this possibility if the user is informed accurately of the need to apply pesticides and the optimum time at which to do it. To provide this vital information pests must be accurately monitored and the factors which lead to the growth of pest population must be known.

The amount of pesticide applied can be reduced if alternative methods of control are used instead of or alongside chemical control, such as the breeding of crop varieties which are resistant to the disease or the pest, biological control and so on. These take time to develop, and in the meantime there is a definite need for the unification of pesticide laws, licensing, standards and controls.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30	Korna
17:50	Caricoms
18:10	Heidi
18:25	Documentary
19:00	Local Programme
19:10	Programme on Sports
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
20:50	Documentary Film
21:00	Arabic Series
21:15	News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00	French Programme
19:00	News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Movie of the Week
21:00	News in English
21:15	Dallas

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 9500 KHz, SW

07:10	Morning Show
07:30	News Summary
08:00	Morning Show
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Instrumentals
14:50	In Concert
15:00	Concert Hour
15:30	News Summary
16:00	Instrumentals, Old Favourites
17:00	Science Report
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Top Twenty
19:00	News Summary
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:30	Evening Show
22:00	News Summary
22:30	News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsday 06:30 Voices to Remember 06:45 Extended News 06:55 Newsday 07:00 World News 07:30 What's

New 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsday 08:30 Jazz For the Ashten 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours News Summary 09:30 The Fred Woods Collection 09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 The Bolton Estate 10:20 Arranged for the Piano 11:00 World News 11:09 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Discovery 12:15 Look Ahead 12:20 Music Centre 12:30 Rock Salad 13:00 World News 13:09 News about Britain 13:15 Letter from London 13:25 Scotland This Week 13:30 Sports Roundup 13:40 World News 14:15 Brahms' Chamber Music 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 A Jolly Good Show 16:30 Men and a Girl 17:00 Radio Newsworld 17:15 Outlook 18:00 Pageant of the Past 18:09 Commentary 18:45 Cricket 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:09 Scotland This Week 19:15 Sports Roundup 20:00 World News 20:09 News about Britain 20:15 Radio Newsworld 20:30 Nature Notebook 20:40 Farming World 21:00 News Summary 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 The Fred Woods Collection 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours News Summary 22:30 Voices to Remember 22:45 Men and a Girl 23:15 Letter from London 23:25 Paperback Choice 23:30 Rock Salad 24:00 World News 24:09 The World Today 24:15 Scotland This Week 06:00 Reflections 06:45 Sports Roundup 07:00 World News 07:09 Commentary 07:15 Latin '83 07:30 Meridian

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260, 5965, 7200, 15205, 11725

05:00 Daybreak 07:00 The Breakfast Show 17:00 News Roundup: Reports, Analysis, Comment 17:30 VOA Magazine 18:00 News Summary 18:30 Special English News 19:00 Special English News 19:30 Special English News 20:00 Special English News 20:30 Special English News 21:00 Special English News 21:30 Special English News 22:00 Special English News 22:30 Special English News 23:00 Special English News 23:30 Special English News 24:00 Special English News 24:30 Special English News 25:00 Special English News 25:30 Special English News 26:00 Special English News 26:30 Special English News 27:00 Special English News 27:30 Special English News 28:00 Special English News 28:30 Special English News 29:00 Special English News 29:30 Special English News 30:00 Special English News 30:30 Special English News 31:00 Special English News 31:30 Special English News 32:00 Special English News 32:30 Special English News 33:00 Special English News 33:30 Special English News 34:00 Special English News 34:30 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SPORTS

Connors wins \$250,000 meet

TORONTO (R) — Third seed Jimmy Connors beat Jose Higueras of Spain 6-2, 6-0, 5-7, 6-0 Sunday in the final of the \$250,000 third annual Tennis Challenge Tournament.

Higueras, who had been resting a sore right knee, was a late replacement in the eight-man exhibition event for number one seed Bjorn Borg.

The Swede, who says he plans to retire from professional tennis in April, dropped out of the event last week after being admitted to hospital in the U.S. with an infected left hand.

It would have been one of the last opportunities for Connors to

face Borg, who took the top ranking from the American in the mid-1970s.

Connors also missed the chance of playing the tournament's defending champion, Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, who withdrew on Monday with a sprained right shoulder.

"I'll find them again, or they will find me," said Connors after collecting his \$100,000 winner's cheque.

"I play all the tournaments as if they're Wimbledon or the U.S. Open no matter whom I'm facing. He (Higueras) played good tennis and it was a great match for both of us."

New Zealand's soccer manager quits

AUCKLAND (R) — New Zealand's soccer team manager John Adhead has quit, the New Zealand Football Association (NZFA) said Monday.

NZFA Chairman Charles Dempsey said the resignation would take effect immediately and coach Kevin Fallon would temporarily take over the team for home and away matches against Australia later this month.

No reason was given for Adhead's resignation.

Dempsey said Adhead had asked for his resignation to be effective from September 1—the end

of his contract. But the NZFA council had decided to make it effective immediately.

Adhead took the New Zealanders successfully through 15 qualifying matches to reach the World Cup finals for the first time. They were the last team to qualify when they beat China 2-1 in Singapore on January 11, 1982.

The last time New Zealand played was in the Spain finals in June last year, when they were beaten heavily in the first round by Brazil, the Soviet Union and Scotland.

The NZFA council will meet on Friday to consider a replacement.

Leroy Haley retains WBC title

CLEVELAND (R) — World Boxing Council (WBC) light welterweight champion Leroy Haley completed a close but unanimous points win over former title holder and fellow American Saoul Mamby here Sunday.

Haley, who took the crown from Mamby last June, was told by his corner that he had to win the last round to make sure of success—and the mild chorus of boos that greeted the decision underlined the narrow margin

which separated the two fighters. The judges' cards read: 115-114, 115-114, 115-113.

"I thought I had won but I think Mamby was justified in thinking that he also had won. It was that close," said Haley.

New Yorker Mamby used his longer reach to fend off his Las Vegas-based opponent, but when the champion did manage to find an opening his punches had more power.

Guillermo Vilas defeats Steve Denton

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — Second-seeded Guillermo Vilas of Argentina beat sixth seeded Steve Denton 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 Sunday to win a \$300,000 men's tennis tournament.

Vilas never lost his serve during the 115-minute match and dropped only 19 points in 15 service games.

The victory was worth \$100,000 to the Argentine, while his U.S. opponent won \$32,000.

"I was serving well at the right moments," said Vilas. "That helped me a lot."

Vilas broke Denton's serve in the seventh and ninth games of the first set and in the 12th game of the second.

Romanian gymnasts may visit Jordan

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Contacts are underway between Jordan and Romania on arranging a visit to Amman by the Romanian gymnastics team which participated in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, the Jordan Times has learned.

The proposed tour of the Romanian Olympic team is being discussed by the Ministry of Culture and Youth and Romanian embassy officials in Amman.

The team is expected to include the 1976 and 1980 Olympic champion Nadia Comaneci and other Romanian gymnastics stars.

American Curry bounces back to WBA title victory

FORT WORTH, Texas (R) — American Donald Curry bounced back from a seventh-round knockdown Sunday night to win the World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight title in a unanimous, 15-round decision over South Korean Jun Sok Hwang.

Curry, unbeaten in 16 professional bouts, pummeled the valiant Hwang with a series of stinging combinations in the last five rounds to claim the title left vacant by Sugar Ray Leonard's retirement.

It was Hwang's first defeat in 22 fights.

After the fight ended, Curry, 21, was taken to hospital for X-rays of his right hand to see if he had fractured it in battering the South Korean.

Hwang, also 21, won the crowd's admiration with his courage. He repeatedly planted himself in a corner of the ring and taunted Curry to come after him.

It was these tactics that earned Hwang his knockdown. He sent Curry to the canvas with a short right uppercut when the quick-fisted American tried to slug it out, toe-to-toe with him.

In wake of Formula One revolution--drivers poised to put theory into practice

LONDON (R) — World Champion Keke Rosberg of Finland and the drivers who want his title are poised to put theory into practice in the wake of the Formula One revolution.

Radical rule changes, made in the interests of safety and agreed after much debate among the myriad factions involved in the multi-million dollar industry, have prompted a flurry of extra activity during the short close season.

The ban on road-holding aerodynamic skirts—a Grand Prix car now shows daylight between the underside of its bodyshell and the ground—left teams with the problems of creating, building and testing entirely new models in time for the start of the 1983 season in Brazil on March 13.

Temporary make-do modifications were out, but at least the opening race of what could be the most unpredictable series for years was delayed two months so that work could be undertaken without undue stress on designers, engineers and drivers.

Stringent track tests have indicated that the new breed of cars are slower than their predecessors, much to the relief of the sport's governing body, although the difference may prove temporary.

In a recent session at the Rio de Janeiro circuit, venue for the opening round of the championship, Frenchman Alain Prost was about five seconds slower than the pole position time he set for last year's race. Timed unofficially, the Renault driver was also inside Brazilian Nelson Piquet's lap record.

The speed of the non-ground effect cars will undoubtedly increase as early design and mechanical problems are solved and drivers become more familiar with the change in handling characteristics.

The fact that the cars tend to slide through corners more readily than their leech-like forerunners should provide increased entertainment for the crowds, but only time will tell whether a hoped-for reduction in serious accidents is achieved.

For once, the pre-season ac-

rimony between the constructors and governing body has been absent as the season draws closer.

Peace has reigned since last year's hard-negotiated agreement that racing should start in Brazil, rather than in traditional fashion with the South African Grand Prix early in the new year. The Kyalami race will now conclude the series at the end of October.

That last argument was prompted by the timing of the new rules. Both sides agreed that cornering speeds should be reduced but disagreed on when the change should be implemented.

A compromise was reached when the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) conceded that months rather than weeks were needed to build the new models and allowed the 1983 season to start later than usual.

The tranquility could come to an abrupt halt when the teams submit their cars for pre-race scrutineering in Rio.

It will be then that the closely-guarded design secrets come to light under the penetrating gaze of rival teams ready to protest that particular innovations do not adhere to the latest technical rule book. Rio officials will need to be extremely diligent because they host the race at which precedents can be set.

The number of turbocharged cars has increased, with Lotus and Alfa Romeo using them from the start of the season and Ligier and McLaren expected to follow suit later.

The French Renault team, the first to use turbo power, will supply engines to British rivals Lotus, while Porsche are building one for McLaren. Alfa Romeo have produced their own eight-cylinder unit and Ligier could well have engines manufactured by Renault by mid-season.

Perhaps significantly, Rosberg's Williams team, the most consistent finisher in the last few years, have stuck to the well-proven non-turbo Ford Cosworth engine—at least for the start of the season—along with Tyrrell who have at last found a major sponsor after two years of struggling to remain competitive without one.

In spite of the new regulations it would appear that the status quo between turbo and non-turbo cars will be maintained in practice—Renault grabbed pole position for 10 of the 16 races last

year because of their ability to put in a fast lap.

Racing should be rather more evenly balanced, with the turbos shining on the fast tracks and the reliable Cosworth cars dominating twisting street circuits like Monaco and Detroit.

The usual crop of driver transfers has gone on amid the car building, but several teams are still without a complete line-up because of sponsorship problems—the sport is desperately expensive and many agreements with teams are governed by the personal financial backing of individual drivers.

Rosberg, anxious to become the first driver to retain his crown since Australian Jack Brabham in 1960, will have a new partner in Frenchman Jacques Laffite.

Ironically, the champion has only one Grand Prix victory to his credit—he won the Swiss Grand Prix at Dijon last August—while the seasoned Laffite, who has joined from Ligier, has finished first six times.

American Eddie Cheever, who also campaigned a Ligier last season, has teamed up with Prost at

Renault. He fills the vacancy created by the departure of Rene Arnoux to join fellow Frenchman Patrick Tambay at Ferrari, winners of the 1982 Constructors' Championship.

Ligier are believed to be among the teams who persuaded FISA to extend the deadline for driver nominations from Jan. 31 to the end of February.

Brabham, also hest by sponsorship problems, are likely to retain last season's line-up, namely 1981 champion Piquet and Italian Riccardo Patrese.

Twice champion Niki Lauda of Austria and Britain's John Watson remain with McLaren and Italian Elio de Angelis and Briton Nigel Mansell will again drive for Lotus who will be without the considerable influence of mastermind Colin Chapman.

Lauda recently underwent eye surgery in Rio but he is reported fully recovered. Watson, joint second with the badly injured Frenchman Didier Pironi in last year's championship, remains involved in a financial wrangle with McLaren but says he is prepared to drive for them until terms

are agreed. Ken Tyrrell is among the team bosses looking forward to the season with relish. A welcome cash injection, plus the continued services of highly-rated Italian Michele Alboreto, could put his team back at the forefront of Formula One.

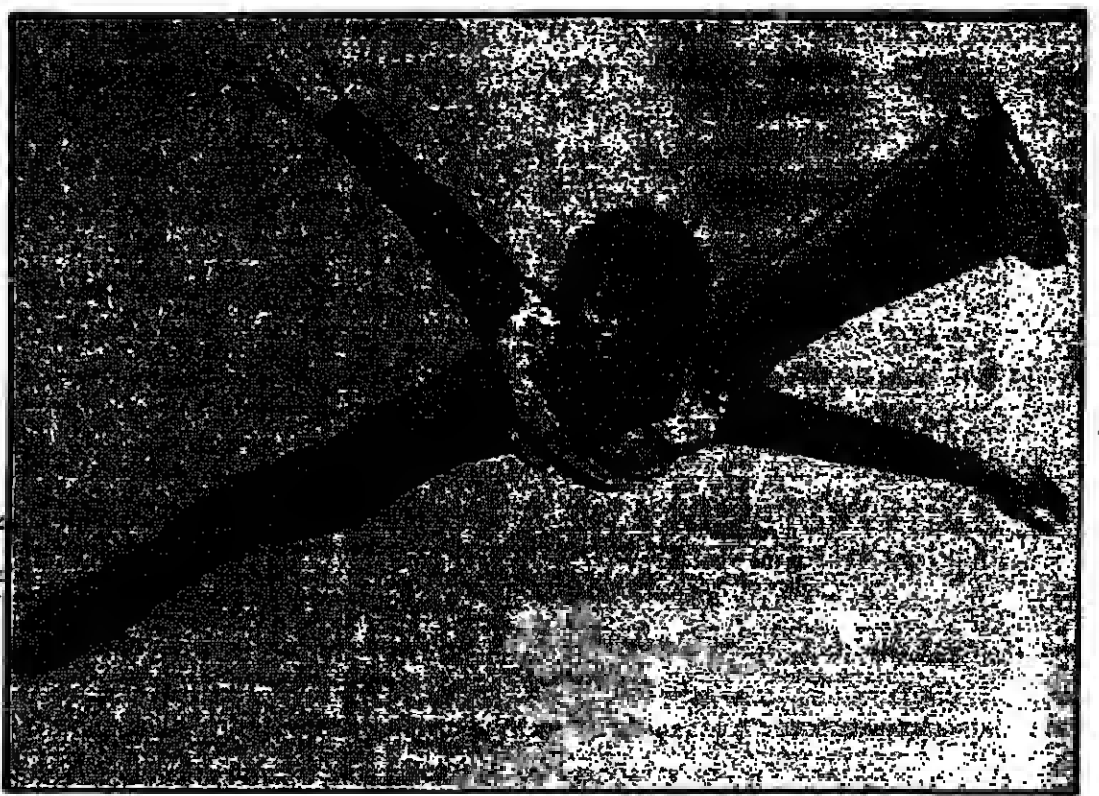
Alboreto underlined his potential by completing his first Grand Prix victory at the end of last season. That overdue triumph in Las Vegas was Tyrrell's first since the late Patrick Depailler won in Monaco in 1978.

This season's championship show an increase from 16 to 17 races. The New York Grand Prix has been added to the list, sandwiched between the Italian and Las Vegas races, on Sept. 25.

The rest of the programme remains unchanged from last year, although the Belgian Grand Prix on May 22 returns to Spa from Zolder.

The Belgians' plan to use the circuits on alternate years, like Brands Hatch and Silverstone, which hosts the British Grand Prix on July 16.

W. Germany's Schramm retains European title



Dortmund (DaD) — Norbert Schramm, 22, a Bundeswehr soldier from Oberstdorf, Federal Republic of Germany, retained his European ice skating crown at the Westfalenhalle, Dortmund, with a freestyle display that earned him nine 5.8s and nine 5.9s (out of 6) from the jury and thunderous applause from an audience of 10,000 at the rink. But his title defence was tough and go; after the first two events he was trailing the young Czech champion. He will next be trying his luck against the fine US and Canadian skaters at the world championships in Helsinki.

Salnikov sets new 800 metres freestyle time

BONN (R) — Vladimir Salnikov of the Soviet Union clipped almost six seconds off the world best time for 800 metres freestyle at a short-course swimming international here Sunday night.

The Leningrad-born Olympic and World Champion clocked seven minutes 38.9 seconds, smashing the previous best 7:44.53 set by American Jeff Kostoff.

Kostoff finished second, over a second inside his previous best effort.



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ECONOMY

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prague, Cairo agree on trade limit

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Czechoslovakia agreed Sunday on a \$50 million ceiling in trade at the end of five days of talks between Czechoslovak minister of foreign trade Mr. Bohumil Erban and Egyptian officials. Mr. Wagh Shindi, minister of investment and international cooperation said that Egypt would buy timber and farm equipment and use Czechoslovak expertise in implementing a number of industrial projects. Egypt would export cotton, textiles and leather products.

Neste to demand cut in oil price

HELSINKI (R) — Finland's state-owned oil importing company Neste says it will ask Soviet suppliers for a price cut on crude oil deliveries in line with a Soviet reduction to Italy. The company has disclosed it is currently paying between \$31 and \$32 a barrel for Soviet crude, which indicates it is pressing for a cut in the region of \$2. Soviet deliveries of crude last year were priced at roughly \$34.10 a barrel, customs board figures show.

World cereal output rises

ROME (J.T.) — World cereal production in 1982 reached a record 1,544 million tonnes, up by 2 per cent over the 1,515 million tonnes harvested in 1981, the Food Outlook of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations said. However, production in developing countries "rose hardly at all" because of smaller rice crops in Asia, and in low-income food-deficit countries cereal output declined slightly, the monthly report stated. The worst-hit region was Africa where widespread drought caused "a serious deterioration in the food situation in 1982," the report said.

Japanese measures will avert trade war

BRUSSELS (R) — Japanese measures to restrain exports to the European Community of key industrial products will ease relations between the two trading groups and avert a damaging trade war, senior Community officials said Monday.

The measures were agreed in Tokyo at the weekend after week-long talks with a high-level Community delegation led by the Community's commissioners in charge of external relations and of industry, Mr. Willem Hofkamp and Mr. Etienne Davignon.

The commissioners told a press conference on their return here Monday the talks had set a framework for orderly competition between the Common Market and Japan.

Community complaints against Japan under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and measures such as France's restrictions on imports of video tape recorders would be withdrawn once Community governments have approved the Tokyo deal, they added.

The Japanese measures, affecting 10 products, were expected to come into force as soon as possible and the Community's council of ministers was expected to approve the deal at its monthly session here next week, they said.

The commissioners said it resulted from the first operational agreement with Japan affecting the whole Common Market after Japan abandoned its previous policy of dealing separately with each of the 10 Community Market states.

They added that it created conditions for fair competition in a market so far dominated by Japan.

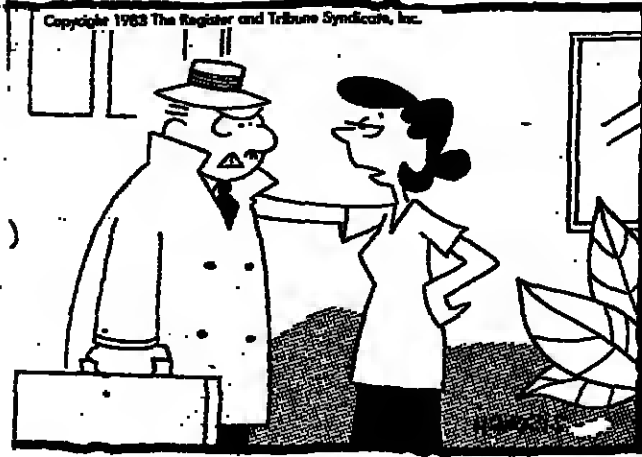
The key product affected is video tape recorders where the Japanese increase their exports to the Community last year by 80 per cent to some 4.5 million sets.

The agreement reserves for European manufacturers a market of at least 1.2 million sets this year when only slight growth was expected, the commissioners said.

It also stipulates self-imposed moderation in exports to the Community of cars, light trucks, fork-lift trucks, motorcycles, quartz watches and television and hi-fi equipment.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"No, you can't have your boss arrested for terrorism."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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IF YOU SEE FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER, DRAGULA AND A WEREWOLF ALL AT THE SAME TIME, BETTER HOPE IT'S THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

*Hint answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Today's Jumble: SINGE DICED WINNOW BOLERO

Answer: When his girl insisted that he find a job, this is what he decided to look for—A NEW GIRL.

OPEC mounts rearguard action to defend oil price

LONDON (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil exporters are mounting a rearguard action to defend their official oil price, but analysts believe it may be too late to prevent a cut.

In recent days a number of ministers from OPEC have fought back against the widely held assumption in the oil industry that the \$34 a barrel benchmark price must come down in the near future.

The most outspoken defence of the benchmark came at the weekend from the two countries most frequently attacked by fellow OPEC members for selling their oil cheaply — Iran and Libya.

Iranian Oil Minister, Mohammad Gharazi said in Tehran a price cut would intensify the problems of the oil producers and create more disorder in the world economy.

He called on OPEC to hold a special meeting to confirm the \$34 benchmark.

Mr. Gharazi accused the industrialised countries of using oil stocks built up over a period of years in order to exert pressure on producers and force down prices.

The Iranian minister was referring to unusually high consumption of stocks by major refiners, which has depressed prices on the free spot oil market.

Some industry estimates put the stock "drawdown" at as much as three million barrels a day, or some seven per cent of non-Communist world demand.

The Libyan Oil Minister, Mr. Kamel Hassan Al-Maghour, has meanwhile been visiting the Gulf to discuss ways of heading off a potential oil price crash. Libya has called for new OPEC talks to try to resolve differences among the 13 member countries on sharing out the dwindling market for their oil.

The official Libyan news agency Jana backed up the initiative with a commentary at the weekend warning that cheaper crude could harm the economies of member states.

Jana said a lowering of oil prices was "an imperialist scheme" that would obstruct OPEC development plans.

The Iranian and Libyan statements were a clear reaction to signals from Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest exporter, that it was no longer ready to defend the \$34 benchmark.

Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani was quoted last week as saying an oil price cut now appeared inevitable.

Saudi Arabia has been forced to cut back its oil output because of what it regards as unfair competition from other OPEC members, principally Iran and Libya, which it accuses of offering discounts in order to attract customers.

Sheikh Yamani said in an interview with the Saudi magazine Iqra last week that the discounts would be the first to try to defend the \$34 benchmark.

"They want our price to remain high so they can sell their output at any time they want at a discount off that high price," he was quoted as saying.

But despite Sheikh Yamani's comments on an inevitable price cut, there was an indication from Saudi Arabia at the weekend that it might still fight for the benchmark.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted what it called a responsible source as saying the kingdom had "not decided until now with regard to a cut in prices or an increase in output."

The agency said its statement was to correct comments attributed to Sheikh Yamani by Iqra magazine but did not elaborate.

The belated support for the benchmark has not been confined to the radicals, Iran and Libya. Indonesian Mining and Energy Minister Dr. Suharto said Monday his country would prefer to defend \$34 rather than boost output at lower prices.

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LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities were generally easier in quiet and featureless trading, dealers said.

Among leading industrials, ICI was down 2p at 390 after 394 but Grand Met gained 3p at 359 following increased quarterly sales figures. The F.T. index at 1500 Monday was down 2.5 at 660.0.

Government bonds, after initial mark-downs of around 1/4 point, attracted moderate buying interest to show gains of as much as 1/2 point in longs, dealers said. Some switching was apparent away from lesser dated issues, where prices are being held back ahead of the new bond on Thursday. Into longer dated stocks, they added.

Banks were easier on reports that bad debt provisions will lead to lower bank profits, with Natwest down 5p at 513 and Barclays off 3p at 430. Gold shares were quietly lower with falls stretching to 1/2.

In oils, B.P. fell 6p at 318 and Shell shed 2p at 438, while profit-taking pared early gains in electricals with GEC down 4p at 212 after 218 and Plessey unchanged on balance at 597.

Builders were mostly firm with Barratts up 4p at 492, while in newspapers, Fleet Holdings gave up 3p at 55 1/2 but International Thomson was up 5p at 458 after 461 on the acquisition of financial media interests.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.5357/67	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2255/58	Canadian dollars
	2.4198/4208	West German marks
	2.6730/50	Dutch guilders
	2.0155/70	Swiss francs
	47.60/65	Belgian francs
	7.8550/8600	French francs
	1392.50/1393.50	Italian lire
	235.90/236.10	Japanese yen
	7.4290/4340	Swedish crowns
	7.0760/0810	Norwegian crowns
	8.5425/5525	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	499.75/500.75	U.S. dollars

Cockerill-Sambre chief to cut costs by \$115m

BRUSSELS (R) — The new president of Belgium's loss-making steel firm Cockerill-Sambre said Monday he planned to cut costs by \$5.5 billion francs (\$115 million) over the next three years.

This would be done through production cuts and more efficient use of energy and materials, said Mr. Gerard Delrue, who took over the company two weeks ago.

On Friday the government, which has an 81 per cent share in the company, cut Cockerill salaries by between five and 15 per cent because workers and management had failed to agree a pact reducing wages from Feb. 1.

The wage cuts will save \$30 million a year. Mr. Delrue, Director-General Jacques Van De Steene and French consultant Mr. Jean Gandois told a press conference Monday the unions were unhappy with the pay cut but seemed willing to negotiate in future.

The unions have said they oppose the wage cut and want assurances that the firm will not close.

Mr. Gandois said he would submit a report on Cockerill to the government by the end of March. The government has to report by the end of June to the European Commission, which wants all steel industry subsidies phased out by the end of 1985.

OPEC finance officials meet

VIENNA (R) — Finance ministers from several OPEC member states met here Monday to discuss their aid to developing countries, in the face of dwindling revenues from falling oil prices and OPEC exports.

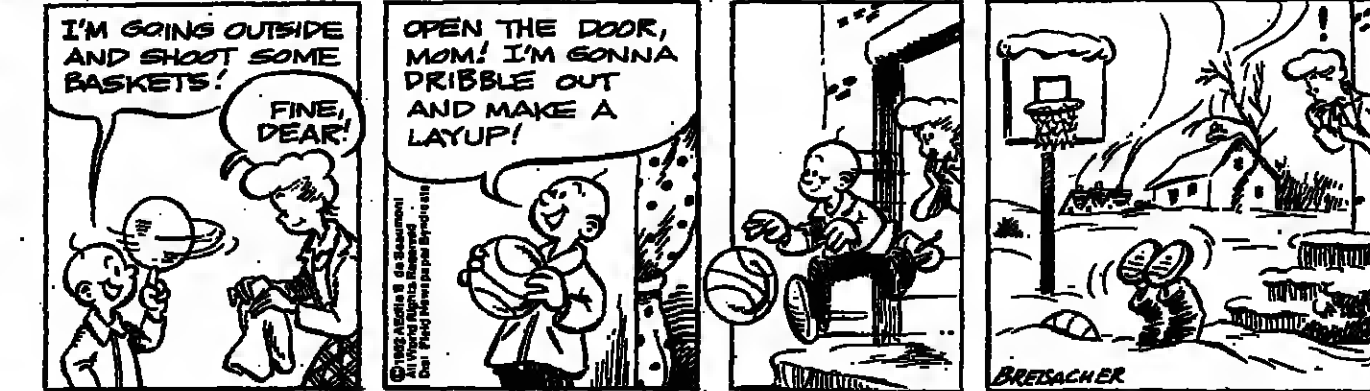
The ministers, attending the annual ministerial council of the OPEC Fund for International Development, also inaugurated the fund's new headquarters in a former palace on Vienna's Ringstrasse.

OPEC ran a combined trade deficit estimated at \$18 billion in 1982 for the first time in many years as the world oil glut cut members' earnings.

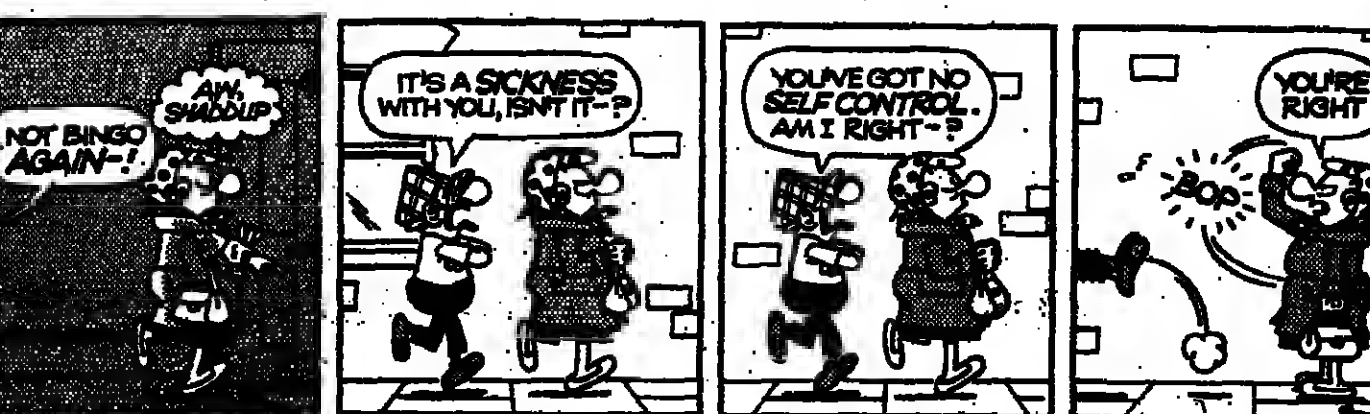
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 15, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to display your creative skills and gain a feeling of achievement. Do whatever tasks that will enable you to attain those goals that are important to you in the future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make arrangements with congenials for amusements you desire with them. Strive for a more successful life.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A new project that looms large on the horizon today is the right one for you. You can now make a good impression on others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Find the right sources where you can obtain the information you need to become more successful in career matters.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A time to show others that you are capable of adding to your present abundance. Be more practical.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Being more positive-minded now can help you gain the objectives that are uppermost on your mind. Express happiness.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can now make plans that will bring excellent results in the future. Show that you are an artistic person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) According to your planetary aspects you can now easily gain a most cherished aim. Handle your money wisely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Analyze your regular routines and be sure you are realizing your finest potential. Express your finest talents to higher-ups.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) An associate may try to get you to do something you don't approve of, so be tactful and rely on your better judgment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study your monetary matters more diligently and you will know how to improve on them. Try to please loved one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you cooperate more with associates you will have more rapport and success in the future. Strive for happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can easily handle a difficult task today. Take no chances where your health is concerned. Guard your reputation.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will need much encouragement in order to do best work. There is great imagination in this chart. Education should be directed toward governmental work. Give good religious training early in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword by Louis Sabin

ACROSS

1 Conks

5 Boat or roller

10 Snoozes

14 Unpleasant smell

15 American inventor

16 Yellow cheese

17 Store occasion

20 Chat

21 Do a secretarial task

22 Clinging type

23 Salute to Benito

24 French dramatist

27 Pie fruit

31 Fleaplace remains

32 Frameworks of parallel bars

33 No longer working

34 Summer treat

35 Abner's pal

36 Rue — Paix

37 Deer

38 Use a besom

40 L.Q. man

41 Summer theater

43 Sci-fi hero

44 Tres —

45 Hackman of films

46 Wall hanging

48 Annual occasions

55 To shelter

56 Goes for

57 Coastal filer

58 Hollow stem

59 Put forth

60 Ruminant

18 Marble streaks

19 Ages

23 Simian

24 Forays

25 Certain neckwear

26 Peace

28 Holiday feeling

27 Oil holder

28 Peace goddess

29 Kind of angler

30 Date, for short

32 Collect

36 Codified

38 Taffeta sound

39 Canole

40 Gool

42 Eased up

43 Banquet

45 Bug-eyed one

46 Certain girder

47 Shade of green

48 Indian part

49 Little one

50 Fatigue

51 Descartes — keeps —

52 Belgian river

54 City in France

DOWN

1 Brie —

2 Wine, pref.

3 Colorful

4 Navy issue

5 British novelist

6 Succinct

7 Abstract being

8 Winglike

9 Wed

10 Wise man

11 "An apple — keeps —"

12 Feeler

13 "Peter Pan" baddle

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

14 BATTLE

15 ATTITUDE

16 LEAP

17 RAIL

18 STATION

19 POSITION

20 FIGHTING

21 DISCUSSION

22 ADD

23 ODDS

24 OSCAN

25 MERE

26 CANE

27 CONNAR

28 ROMANCHE

29 ALMAN

30 CADILLAC

31 FLOES

32 REMAINS

33 CHAT

34 FLOES

35 FLOES

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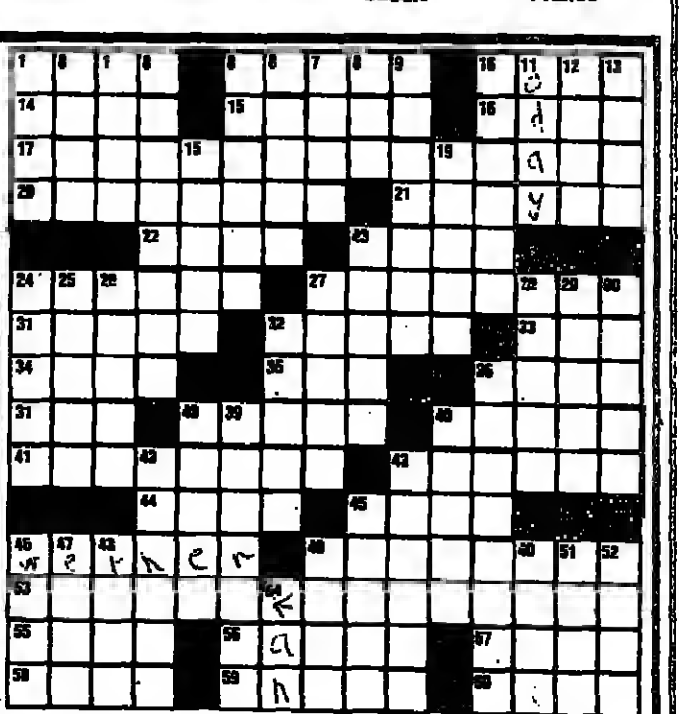
56 FLOES

57 FLOES

58 FLOES

59 FLOES

60 FLOES



WORLD

Violence in Assam as polls begin

GAUHATI, India (R) — New fighting broke out Monday in India's northeastern state of Assam as voting began in local elections after two weeks of violence in which more than 90 people died.

At least one Assamese was killed in the fresh violence. Assamese militants opposed to the elections tried to stop people voting and picketed heavily-guarded polling stations.

A government spokesman said the latest death occurred when militant locals opposed to the polls fought Bengali immigrants in the northern tea-growing district of Dibrugarh.

Fighting and arson were also reported in the central district of Darrang.

Militant groups have demanded the removal of the immigrants from electoral rolls and the state and have called for a boycott of the polls. The immigrants are mainly Muslims from Bangladesh. Officials said voting was heavy Monday in immigrant areas but moderate in the Assamese-dominated central districts.

The elections were called to choose a new state legislature and 12 members for the national parliament in New Delhi.

Many people appeared to have stayed away from the polls out of fear after militant students moved into the countryside and barricaded polling booths.

"Most people have shut themselves inside their homes or gone away out of fear," said a

45-year-old Assamese farmer. He said nobody in his village of 300 families outside Gauhati had voted.

The village is close to Jagoirad, in Nowgong district, where four people were killed in fighting Sunday. Many villages along the road from here to Nowgong were deserted Monday.

In Jagoirad, Muslim immigrant Basheer Ahmad said he wanted to vote but had not done so. "Who will protect me after the election is over and the police have left?" he asked.

Thousands of armed police were on duty for the elections in which Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party was challenged by a Communist-dominated left-wing coalition of

five parties. Voting will also take place on Thursday and Sunday. India's main non-Communist opposition parties are boycotting the poll.

The leader of one of the opposition groups, the Bharatiya Janata Party, said in New Delhi Monday that the consequences of what he called elections at gunpoint were likely to be calamitous.

In Gauhati, the Assam Tribune newspaper also said the government was conducting "in effect a gunpoint poll."

Many polling booths have been set up along highways because militants have isolated villages in the interior by blocking roads or burning wooden bridges to stop election officials and police entering them.

64 die in Turin fire

TURIN (R) — Grief-stricken parents, relatives and friends were still trying Monday to identify the last of 64 people who died when fire swept through a central Turin cinema Sunday night.

Police said 51 bodies had been formally identified by this morning and the documents of another five had been recovered from the charred interior of the Statuto cinema. But more than 12 hours after the tragedy the names of eight victims remained unknown.

"We have found no more dead. But we still have no idea how many people were injured," a police spokesman said. "The cause of the fire remains unclear."

Many of the 64 who died were choked to death on the stairs, in corridors and in toilets as clouds of black smoke poured from the cinema's plastic furnishings.

Cinema manager Raimondo Capello was arrested Sunday night on charges on manslaughter and negligence. Police said a first inspection suggested emergency exits from the upper gallery might have been blocked.

Police kill 1 student in Dacca demo

DACCA (R) — One student died and at least 87 people were injured in fierce clashes Monday between police and students protesting against military rule in Bangladesh.

Police first used water cannon and teargas and then opened fire to disperse several thousand students who hurled bricks and stones at them.

The student died at the Dacca Medical College Hospital from bullet wounds, hospital sources said.

Fifty policemen were being treated for injuries as well as 37 other people, nearly all students, the sources said.

The students had planned a sit-down protest in front of the secretariat against the continuation of martial law and the education policy which makes Bengali, English, and Arabic compulsory subjects in primary schools.

Harare rejects spy deal

HARARE (R) — The Zimbabwe government Monday ruled out any deal with a foreign country for the release of two former special agents detained last month soon after they were cleared by the high court of spying charges.

Government spokesman Justin Nyoka said: "These men are Zimbabwean citizens. We cannot exchange our citizens with a foreign country."

He was responding to questions by Reuters about a stepped-up government campaign to prove that Philip Hartlebury, 30, a dual British-Zimbabwean national, and Colin Evans, 27, a Zimbabwean, had admitted spying for South Africa.

The government said last week it had rejected three offers by the South African government to exchange the two men for one Soviet spy and 115 Angolan prisoners.

The Sunday Mail newspaper and the national news agency ZIANA Sunday carried accounts of

what they said were handwritten confessions by Mr. Hartlebury and Mr. Evans released by Minister of State for Security Emmerson Mnangagwa.

The two men allegedly admitted in the confessions that they had been recruited by South African intelligence in 1980.

The confessions were rejected by the high court on the grounds that they had been made under duress and on the basis of promises of freedom.

The two men allegedly said they had been detailed to gather information about Zimbabwe's secret service, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), for which they worked, the army and the police.

Mr. Mnangagwa said in his statement to parliament that Mr. Hartlebury and Mr. Evans had been found with weapons used in an attack in 1980 on the home of Kumbirai Kangai, now minister of labour and social services.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WFP to aid refugees in Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — About half of an estimated 14,000 Palestinian refugees from Lebanon, who have been in Syria since June 1982, are not covered by assistance from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), according to a report by the World Food Programme (WFP). It added that the WFP will supply 340 tonnes of food for 7,000 refugees up to 90 days, at a cost of \$142,700.

Dutch, UAE ministers meet

ABU DHABI (R) — Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van der Broek and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Monday discussed the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf. The official Emirates news agency said they also reviewed economic relations between the Netherlands and the UAE.

Polish police stop peaceful march

WARSAW (R) — Polish riot police broke up a peaceful march Sunday by supporters of the outlawed Solidarity trade union to mark the 14th month since a military crackdown began, witnesses said. The demonstration started when worshippers at a Roman Catholic mass to mark the occasion left a church and set off for a floral cross which has been a symbol of resistance, the witnesses said.

Frozen door excuse for being late

TOKYO (R) — Commuters late for work Monday had a novel excuse — the doors on their train were frozen shut when they arrived at Tokyo's Ueno station. A cold snap hit Japan Monday and in the northern island of Hokkaido the temperature dipped to minus 17.3 degrees Centigrade (Zero Fahrenheit).

Infant survives 7-storey fall

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (R) — An infant plunged seven floors after crawling out of an apartment window, but was saved by a snowdrift, police said Sunday. Neighbors who saw 20-month-old Elijah Walker fall, wrapped him in a blanket and rushed him to hospital. He suffered no injuries. One doctor called the incident a "miracle." He said the freshly-fallen snow from blizzards which blanketed the U.S. East Coast acted like a cushion.

Hansard ignores minister's death

LONDON (R) — A government minister died while addressing the House of Commons but the event has been ignored by Hansard, the official record of Parliament. Mr. Michael Roberts, under-secretary for Wales, collapsed in mid-sentence and died while speaking for the government in a long debate last week. In Hansard, the only clue is in the abrupt end to his speech: "If he does not wish to give that explanation, perhaps the hon. gentleman..." Hansard, the verbatim journal, adds 1.1 p.m. on Feb. 14. Sitting suspended. Parliamentary historians say there is an unwritten rule that it is not formally admitted that anyone has died with the palace of Westminster when both houses of Parliament meet. Apparently because any inquest jury would have to be made up of residents in London's royal palaces.

Jerry Lewis weds ex-ballet dancer

MIAMI (R) — Film star Jerry Lewis has married former ballet dancer Sandra Pitnick, 32, his companion since 1979. It was the 56-year-old comedian's second marriage. He married former singer Patti Palmer when he was 18 and the marriage lasted until 1980 when she was given a divorce and \$400,000 a year. The couple had six sons.

South African Labour Party takes steps for defence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A coloured (mixed race) Labour Party leader told cheering supporters Sunday night the party was forming what he called a military wing to deal with opponents who disrupted meetings.

Transvaal Party leader Jac Rabie made the announcement after police had ejected hecklers and later used tear gas to keep chanting demonstrators at bay outside a township hall near here.

The meeting was the last in a week-long campaign by Labour Party leader the Rev. Allan Hendrickse to explain his party's controversial decision to take part in the new three-chamber parliament planned by the ruling National Party government. Whites, coloureds and Asians would be represented, but not South Africa's black majority.

Violence has broken out at several of the Labour meetings. Military wing to deal with them (the demonstrators). He did not elaborate.

At Verulam, near Durban, the Indian Reform Party passed a resolution at its national conference Sunday night rejecting the government's constitutional proposals.

It said the party did not want this rejection to be seen as a boycott, as it believed there should be negotiations with the government for a better political deal for all South Africans.

Colombian cocaine queen under arrest

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's "cocaine queen" Veronica Rivera de Vargas, one of the world's most wanted drug-dealers, was asleep with a pistol in her hand when she was arrested after years on the run, police sources said Monday.

They said that 45-year-old Rivera de Vargas, whose capture was announced on Saturday, had fought her way through gang war from small-time smuggling to undisputed control of Colombia's lucrative drug traffic.

She extended her empire into other Latin American countries and was also wanted in the United States and Europe.

The arrest of Rivera de Vargas and 12 members of her gang was announced by Colombia's secret police chief, Col. Yacin Yanine Diaz. He said they were found at a

remote farm in southeast Colombia where she had set up a modern laboratory from which she dispatched processed drugs directly to Europe and the United States.

Police sources said the career of the "cocaine queen" started in a small shop in Bogota where she dealt in smuggled goods.

Eight years ago, they said, she decided to quit the ordinary smuggling business and rapidly became the head of a gang fighting for control of the Colombian drug market.

The underworld war left 20 people dead — among them her lover Julio Cesar Vargas Torres.

He was riddled with bullets along with his bodyguards when rivals stormed a Bogota bar.

The sources said the Rivera de

Vargas gang avenged his death by killing several members of her main rival, who pulled out for the United States. Rivera de Vargas was left in control and became Colombia's most wanted criminal.

She was detained in 1977 by the secret police as she tried to travel abroad on a forged passport. But she was released for reasons which have not been explained.

Colombian police caught up with her again in 1981 as she was boarding a plane with 55 kilos of cocaine in suitcases, the sources said. Yet again she managed to escape.

Rivera de Vargas and the other 12 were brought to Bogota under heavy police escort, and Col. Yanine Diaz said more arrests were expected.

'Britain is creating strategic stockpile'

LONDON (R) — The British government has secretly started buying key metals and minerals to create a strategic stockpile, the Financial Times newspaper said.

The business daily, quoting trade sources in London, said several South African companies had been approached with orders for chrome, manganese and other materials vital to industry or used in the manufacture of arms.

It said the initial orders were thought to be worth between £5 and 10 million (\$7.7 and 15.4 million).

In a front page story, the newspaper said: "The secrecy surrounding the buying programme... thought to be nearly complete — was to prevent prices being

pushed up by the knowledge that the British government was in the market."

The idea of creating a stockpile of vital raw materials has been debated in Britain for some time.

The Financial Times said it was believed that last year's Falklands War with Argentina persuaded the government to go ahead with the idea instead of waiting for the European Community to develop a common policy.

A spokesman for the department of industry told Reuters that he could not confirm or deny the Financial Times report. But he added: "The government has been considering a strategic stockpile for some considerable time."

He said industrialists had been pressing the government to act, but the difficulty had been how to finance such a scheme.

Prices of most metals and minerals have been low for some years because of depressed demand, but they have started rising slightly on hopes of an economic recovery.

The Financial Times said the government was using a French-owned company, Brandels Instel, to coordinate the buying programme.

Officials and industrialists have long been conscious that Britain is highly dependent for some raw materials on countries which have a near-monopoly or are politically unstable.

Queen Elizabeth starts 4-week tour in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth arrived in Jamaica Sunday at the start of a four-week tour which will take her on to the Cayman Islands, Mexico and California, where she will spend a weekend at President Reagan's ranch near Santa Barbara.

The queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, stepped from her Royal Air Force (RAF) VC-10 aircraft on a grey, blustery afternoon, to be greeted by Jamaica's governor-general, Florizel Glasspole, and Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

Her three-day stay in Jamaica coincides with the 21st anniversary of the country's independence from Britain.

Although this is the fourth time the queen has visited the island,

Jamaica was pointedly excluded from her last Caribbean tour in 1977 — her jubilee year — because of British dissatisfaction with the neo-Marxist and openly pro-Republican sentiments of then-Prime Minister Michael Manley.

Mr. Manley's People's National Party (PNP) was swept from power in 1980 by Mr. Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party. As prime minister, Mr. Seaga has reversed the country's course, determinedly pursuing pro-business and pro-Western policies.

While both major parties are committed to constitutional reform which may eventually make the island nation a republic, discussions have been given a lower priority since the changing of the political guard, political sources say.

W. Pacific islanders object to Japan's nuclear dumping

By James Foley

Reuters

GUAM — The small island states of the Western Pacific are joining forces to oppose a plan by Japan to dump its mounting nuclear waste in the Pacific.

"We islanders cannot accept the risk of a potential nuclear dumping incident, no matter how minute the possibility," Sen. Carl Gutierrez of Guam told a recent regional conference.

But Japan prevented the Asian-Pacific parliamentary union conference from approving a resolution opposing the concept of disposing of nuclear waste in the Pacific.

The Japanese delegation was able to stop the resolution as the group works on the principle of unanimity, which, in effect, means that each member has a veto.

Sen. Gutierrez, speaker of the Guam legislature, told the 21-nation conference that countries wishing to dispose of spent nuclear fuel and other waste should do so without affecting "the innocent, non-involved people of the Pacific Islands."

Japan wants to drop waste with low levels of radioactivity on the Pacific seabed some 1000 kil-

ometres southeast of Tokyo.

Four island groups

Guam is an unincorporated territory of the United States, while the four Western Pacific island groups — The Marshalls, the Federated States of Micronesia, The Palau and The Northern Marianas — make up the U.S.-administered United Nations strategic trust territory of the Pacific.

All four island groups, and especially The Marshalls where 66 nuclear tests were carried out at Bikini and Eniwetok atolls between 1946-58, are opposed to dumping by any country.

Japan has refrained from carrying out its dumping plans because of the reaction in the Pacific Islands and fears among Japanese fishermen, but the storage problem is becoming acute.

The country's 24 nuclear power stations have produced nearly 500,000 drums, each holding 200 litres of waste, which have to be stored in various sites in Japan.

Japan is expanding its atomic energy programme to reduce dependence on imported oil and expects to have 1.8 million barrels of waste to dispose of by the year 2000.

The plan is to dump up to 10,000 drums into the Pacific north of the Marianas and monitor the results for three years.

Full-scale dumping

Full-scale dumping would begin if the tests were found to be safe, say the Japanese, who point out that other countries, including the United States, have dumped nuclear waste into both the Pacific and the Atlantic.

The islanders are, however, not impressed and plan to do everything possible to stop the Japanese.

Michael Berman, legal counsel to the congress of the federated states of Micronesia, told Reuters that the island group was totally opposed to dumping.

"The federated states are unilaterally opposed to any nuclear dumping, safeguards or no safeguards," he said in an interview in Kolonia on Pohnpei Island, the group's capital.

Anton Debrum, foreign secretary of The Marshall Islands government, said: "Those who create nuclear waste must dispose of that in a fashion which does not endanger their neighbours."

Perhaps only Japan itself, the

only country ever subject to nuclear attack, is more sensitive to nuclear issues than the peoples of the Western Pacific.

The Japanese worry is what would happen if radiation from the dumped waste seeped out and hit marine life, a key economic factor.

Old testing ground

The strong feelings in the region about environmental pollution and possible health hazards are strengthened by the fact that the Pacific was used for nuclear testing by The United States, Britain and France.

Pacific islanders feel they have been victimised by the nuclear powers because of their remoteness, their small populations and the fact they are dependent people.

These attitudes have an impact on negotiations between the island groups and the United States on limited independence.

The Marshall islanders are particularly vehement in their criticism of the United States for testing atomic and hydrogen bombs on their atolls.

"People have been injured, lands and waters have been irreparably contaminated, lands have been totally obliterated and

nuclear wastes are being stored in tombs of questionable security," said Mr. Debrum.

The Marshalls are still seeking compensation for the tests and for Washington to remain responsible for any future illnesses associated with radiation exposure.

One idea under discussion in the islands is for the atomic waste to be stored on Bikini atoll.

This would give Japan a place to dump its waste in return for payments to the Marshalls government, which in turn would make it less dependent on the United States either under a continuation of the trusteeship or as a semi-independent country.

Business would grow for the Marshall islanders as South Korea, Taiwan and The Philippines, as well as other Asian and Pacific countries turn to, or increase their dependence on, nuclear power and produce waste which would need disposal.

Guam officials here said the United States and Japan were considering the feasibility of temporarily storing spent nuclear fuel on a Pacific island.

They will eventually report to the signatories of a 1971 London convention on the dumping of nuclear wastes.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠10762 ♠8 ♠986 ♠KQJ73

The bidding has proceeded: North East South

1 ♠ Dble ?

What action do you take?

A.—Ideally you would like to tell partner that you have a distributional hand with excellent support for his suit, but virtually nothing on the side. You can do just that by jumping to three clubs—that is a preemptive action over a takeout double. Armed with this knowledge, partner may decide to sacrifice against an opposing game, in which case you will present him with a very suitable dummy.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KQ10973 ♠A8 ♠KQJ2 ♠7

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A.—Slam depends only on how many aces partner holds, so jump to four clubs—the Gerber Convention. A jump to four no trump would be quantitative, not ace asking. If partner shows three aces, check for kings with five clubs, and bid a grand slam if he has a king as well.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQJ1074 ♠72 ♠A8 ♠Q93

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—By bidding four clubs over your jump, partner showed slam interest. However, his failure to cue-bid four hearts means that he does not have the ace of that suit, and you could easily have two losers there. Check on it by bidding five spades.

If partner has the king of hearts, he can contract for a small slam—probably in no trump, to protect his king from a lead through.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQJ5 ♠J1063 ♠7 ♠AKQ9

The bidding has proceeded: North East South

1 ♠ 5 ♠ ?

What do you bid now?

A.—East's preempt has accomplished its purpose—you are now in a high-level guessing game. We would give up on a grand slam and hope that partner doesn't have too many values in diamonds, in which case even the small slam might be too high. But six hearts seems about right.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KJ93 ♠J ♠QJ105 ♠AQ98

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South

1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ ?

* preemptive

What action do you take?

A.—This is an unfinished auction—East's bid is forcing. So don't double now, even though you can probably inflict a fairly substantial penalty on your opponents. You may get a chance to double them at an even higher level.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AK83 ♠A76 ♠A965 ♠93

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—While you have a good 15 points, bear in mind that partner's maximum is 10. Even if he does have an absolute maximum, game will be no bargain since you have no long suit to develop. And should you find partner with a minimum hand, 6-7 points, even two no trump could be in jeopardy. Pass.